Maine Farmer.

AGRICULTURE, MECHANIC ARTS, LITERATURE, NEWS, &c.

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Maine Farmer.

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S. L. BOARDMAN, Editor.

Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

Maine Agricultural College.

Future Plans and Needs.

Having spoken of the progress of buildings and other improvements during the past season, we now allude briefly to the interior equipments of the Institution, glancing at its future plans and wants.

To the Board of Instruction has been added Mr. John Swift, a native of Michigan, and a graduate of Michigan Agricultural College, as instructor in Botany and Horticulture. His duties began at the commencement of the last term, and were performed in a very satisfactory manner. Prof. Peckham has proved a most competent instructor in Chemistry, and has rendered valuable service in other departments, and in the general management of the college. The courses of lectures by non-resident professors have given good satisfaction, and are to be continued. In the spring, Dr. Cutter will give a course in Anatomy and Physiology, to the Sophomore and Freshmen classes; in the summer, courses before the Junior and Sophomore classes will be given by Dr. A. S. Packard, on Useful and Injurious Insects; and by Prof. Edward S. Morse, on Comparative Anatomy and Zoology, and sometime during the year a course on Applied Mechanics will be given, by some competent lecturer, Prof. Fernald being now in correspondence with several gentlemen, with this object in view. The college is very well furnished with apparatus, having about two thousand dollars worth of philosophical, and twelve hundred dollars worth of chemical apparatus, besides apparatus for teaching Physical Geography, Civil Engineering, &c. A library has been commenced, and already quite a collection has been made. A good library is among the most efficient means of instruction, and friends of the Institution should aid in its establishment.

There are now eight students in the Junior, seven in the Sophomore, and fourteen in the Freshman class. Eight additional applications have already been received for the Freshman class, and at the commencement of the spring term it will probably number about twenty-five. The next winter term begins Jan. 26th, 1871. The discipline of the college is efficient, and the standing of the students unexceptionably good.

So far as the future plans of the Institution have been made known, we may mention that at the commencement of the spring term, the duties of Farm Superintendent and Steward, heretofore performed by Mr. Johnson, will be divided; the Farm Superintendent will be instructor in agriculture, and the office of Steward or chief of the commissary department will be created, the latter officer occupying the new boarding house, described in our previous article, and supplying the boys with their "bread and butter." This division of labor will be a great relief to the Farm Superintendent, and be a direct benefit to the students. It is intended that the boarding house will be completed, furnished and ready for use, at the opening of the spring term. Military instruction—which is made a requirement of the college course by the organic act—is to receive more attention in the future, and the services of a government officer as instructor in this specialty, will be secured if possible.

Among the pressing needs of the Institution, are workshops, for the practical instruction of the students, a better barn or barns, better and more implements for performing the ordinary work of the farm, better stock—especially for purposes of illustrating to students the various breeds—a set of buildings for the use of an additional professor, a plant house for horticultural purposes, and a better reference and general library. These wants are all apparent and all necessary, but we have placed them above in the order in which it seems to us their importance demands. In about a year and a half the first graduating class will leave the Institution, and it is absolutely necessary that they receive a thorough and practical instruction in mechanics and the use of tools before that time. The workshops—fitted at first with appliances for working wood only—and afterwards provided with steam power and machinery for iron work, are among the most needed equipments of the Institution. Next are better barns, better farming implements, and better stock, of which there should be a pair at least, of each of the distinct breeds—the latter, as well as the implements designed mainly as means of instruction and illustration. These are all necessary for the immediate wants of the Institution, and without them it cannot fulfil its design, or give that complete practical training its students expect of it. Its equipments in the way of philosophical, mathematical and chemical apparatus, are fully equal to those of any similar institution of the same age, in our country; and with the means for practical education which we have just mentioned, the college will be able to take high rank among those institutions in our country whose special aim is the furtherance among us, of the "new education"—the practical and scientific training of our young men.

How can these fixtures be provided? The only way known to us, and the only way expected by the Trustees, is by legislative appropriation. The appropriation of the last Legislature has been most judiciously expended. It has been applied to furnish fixtures and accommodations urgently needed. Now let another moderate sum be granted by the State for building and equiping the workshops, and for improvements upon the farm in the manner indicated; that the young men who leave this people's college may be qualified by mental and manual training to take responsible positions in society, and in the direction of matters pertaining to our industrial and material progress and welfare. These fixtures once provided, and the State will not be called upon to make grants—as the fund from the general government is now sufficient for the maintenance of the working force of the college;—and as no part of this sum can be expended for buildings or equipments, it is but just that the State should accept the duty of providing this college with all necessary buildings, apparatus, implements, tools and stock—since the general goverment has so generously given the means for defraying all the expenses for professors and instructors.

The progress of the Institution during the past year has been most satisfactory; and it is gradually and surely acquiring character and high rank. As time goes on it will outgrow its mistakes, establish and maintain a system of its own, so far as its management, discipline and course of study are concerned, and secure for itself the confidence and good will of the people.

County Agricultural Surveys.

The Illinois State Agricultural Society offer a gold medal, to that county agricultural society which shall furnish the best agricultural survey of the county within the year. In the letter of instruction issued to the societies, announcing this offer, the following points are called to the attention of those proposing to compete for the prize: 1st, geographical description; 2d, topography; 3d, geology, 4th, climatology and meteorology; 5th, culture; 6th, live stock; 7th, fruit; 8th, miscellaneous crops; 9th, domestic manufactures; 10th, labor; 11th, markets; 12th, statistics; 13th, organizations for the promotion of improvement in agriculture and its kindred industries; 14th, fences and farm buildings; 15th, division of labor and leasing of estates; 16th, miscellaneous. Information upon these several heads, carefully collected and judiciously worked up, could not fail to present a full exhibit of the material interests of any community, and by encouraging the preparation of such reports or surveys, societies are doing a work, the good effects of which will be lasting, and tend more towards good culture and permanent improvements than premiums expended in the usual manner. The plan has long been followed by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and has been the means not only of directly improving its system of husbandry, but has given to the agricultural world some of the best writing and most valuable information that have found a place in the annals of agriculture. We wish State and local societies, Boards of Agriculture and even Farmers' Clubs, would more generally encourage the preparation of such surveys.

Editorial Notes.

A. M. Robinson, Esq., of Dover, has been elected a member of the Board of Agriculture from Piscataquis county, for a term of three years. Mr. Robinson is one of the most intelligent citizens of that section of the State, and will give character to the body of which he has been chosen a member.

We feel grateful for the kind expressions of readers, correspondents and friends, concerning the recent enlargement and improvement of the FARMER. Many of these are in the form of communications and letters designed by their writers for insertion in our columns, but they will please excuse us from so doing. These words of approval and satisfaction are however, keenly treasured, and will encourage us to go forward to greater usefulness and success.

Several inquiries have reached us recently for a good book on gardening—one that will meet the wants of those interested in the vegetable and flower garden, as well as the growing of those trees and shrubs usually found in fruit gardens, pears, plums, grapes, currants, &c.—and one suited to those who cannot have half a dozen standard books upon each of the above topics. For such we know of no work better than the new edition of the old standard work of Thomas Bridgeman, comprehending under the general title of the "American Gardener's Assistant," three distinct treatises on the Kitchen, Flower and Fruit garden, respectively. The book contains over 500 pages, the new edition of which, edited and revised by S. Edwards Todd, is published by William Wood & Co., 61 Walker St., New York. The price, we believe, is $2.00, and the book is readily sent by mail.

Farmers' Convention.

The meeting of the Maine Board of Agriculture, which is to be held at the Court House in Farmington, on the 4th, 5th and 6th of January next, will partake more of the character of a Farmers' Convention, than a regular session of the Board—most of the time (especially afternoons and evenings) being devoted to discussions and lecturers interesting to all farmers, and the business or formal sessions of the Board—should such be necessary, taking place in the morning. We hope there may be a large attendance from all portions of the State. The principal lectures and discussions, we understand, will have reference to dairy husbandry, cheese and butter factories, &c., upon which lectures will be given by Mr. X. A. Willard of New York, and Rev. Mr. Gurney of Foxcroft. Lectures and papers may also be expected from members of the Board and others, upon kindred topics, such as "Best breeds for dairying," "Feeding and care of milch cows," &c., to be followed by discussions open to all. Other subjects will also be introduced. All interested in the progress of agriculture are invited to attended and share in the discussions. A special invitation is extended to all farmers' clubs in the State to be present by their delegates and members. Free return tickets will be issued those attending the Convention, who come over the principal railroads in the State.

Beef for Farmers' Tables.

On account of the short hay crop, farmers early in the fall began to dispose of their stock, to reduce it for the winter to correspond with the bulk of their hay mows. The ordinary animals were of course disposed of—as should always be the case—and in consequence of this, local markets all over the State have been supplied with beef of a very inferior quality. The neat stock which has also been sent to the large markets of Brighton and Watertown has generally been of a second and third quality. We notice, however, that better beef begins to be brought into our market, and a better class of animals are being transported by rail. Farmers are also putting down more beef for their own use this fall than common, and will in consequence have better fare during the winter months. Beef is better than pork, and whether corned or fresh, it furnishes, with bread and butter, living which no man need complain of.

Handsome Apples.

Mr. O. D. Cummings, of this town, has left at our office some very handsome apples, specimens of his crop this season. They are from New York trees, and raised from scions set only two years. Among them are the Baldwin, Greening, Nodhead, Pound Sweeting, and one or two sorts not knewn to us. They are all smooth and handsome, and we have never seen finer specimens of the several varieties.

The Foot and Mouth Disease.

We invite the careful attention of our readers to the elaborate article from the pen of S. L. Goodale, Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, on the history, pathology and treatment of the epizootic disease known as the "Foot and Mouth disease," which appears in our present issue. For its early publication in our columns, Mr. Goodale has kindly furnished us with advance MS. sheets of his forthcoming report, in order that (the disease having unfortunately made its appearance in this country) the farmers of the State may have the earliest possible knowledge concerning it.

In order to give this paper an insertion in our present issue, we have been obliged to curtail some departments, and reserve several articles intended for this number until another week.

Holstein Stock in Maine.

As will be seen by an advertisement in its proper place, a thoroughbred bull of this breed is to be kept for service the coming season, at the farm of the National Military Asylum, near this city. The bull is "Opperdoes 6th," two years old, and was sired by imported "Van Tromp," out of imported "Maid of Opperdoes," his grand-dam being the celebrated imported cow "Texelaar." The Dutch have previously been kept in this State to a very limited extent, and when first introduced were in the hands of a most careful and intelligent breeder; but why they were not retained longer, or why we do not hear more about their progeny—for there must be many grades of this breed hereabouts—we cannot tell. The breed certainly possesses distinct qualities of great value—they are good workers and good milkers—and we hope an effort will be made by the accomplished Director of the asylum—who is an enthusiastic farmer, by the way—to ascertain the value of the grades for purposes for which they are said to be superior to grades of some other breeds.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

In the summer of 1839 there appeared in Great Britain an epizootic disease among cattle, that is to say, a disease which, had it affected the human race would be called an *epidemic*; and which has since been known as the "Foot and Mouth" disease. Somewhat similar cases had been previously known, but only sporadic, occurring only occasionally and at rare intervals. But at this time it spread with rapidity and prevailed so extensively during that and the two following years (1840-1) that, we are told scarcely a single parish escaped throughout the kingdom. Nor was it confined to cattle, but affected sheep and swine, poultry, rabbits, cats and deer. At the same time, as well as somewhat before and after, influenza, catarrhs and sore throats prevailed much among horses. Neither temperature nor weather seemed much to influence it. It visited all localities alike. Prof. Sewell, of the Vet. College, writes at that time, "as far as situation, nature of the soil and general features and aspects of the country are described no exemption from the disease is recorded, whether mountainous or hilly, flat, wooded or open, dry or wet."

Although not usually fatal, many beasts died, but greater loss ensued from the debility which the disease produced or left behind. In some cases the symptoms were slight and the animals recovered without severe illness and without medical treatment; in others the symptoms were severe and attended with much suffering and danger.

During the thirty years following, the same disease has appeared there several times as an epizootic, but in no case with such severity or wide-spread prevalence as to create general alarm, and during the early part of 1869 little was heard of it beyond its existence in the sporadic form in a few places in England and Scotland. At the beginning of summer, however, there was a sudden augmentation of the disease; and as this was coincident with the malady assuming an epizootic form on the continent of Europe, many believed the rapid increase in England to have been owing to importation of diseased animals. Official inquiry however did not confirm that opinion. It appeared however that the outbreak on the Continent was quite as remarkable as that in Great Britain. "Countries which had been free from the disease for many years were visited, and it may be said that, from the shores of the German Ocean and the Baltic to those of the Black Sea scarcely a single country escaped."

The wide-spread prevalence of this disease both in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe induced the authorities here to adopt precautionary measures against its introduction into the United States; and strict regulations issued from the Treasury Department, to be enforced by Custom House officers.

We know, from personal experience that these were rigidly adhered to at Portland and undoubtedly equal care has been exercised at many other parts of entry. But, somehow or other, and, judging from present scources of information, probably, by way of cattle from Canada, these effects have been baffled, and the disease has appeared in a considerable number of cases in the eastern part of the State of New York and, it is reported, at other places also. Just how long it has been in this country, or how slowly or rapidly it has spread, we do not know; nor whether the conditions existing among us are favorable or otherwise to its rapid development. But I should be remiss in the discharge of duty did I not promptly advise the farmers of Maine of the fact of its introduction, and lay before them information regarding its character, symptoms and treatment, together with suggestions in respect to precautionary and preventive measures.

The Mouth and Foot disease is decidedly *constitutional* in its nature, rather than local, although manifesting itself locally in a peculiar manner. It is known to veterinary practitioners as *epizootic ophtha*. In the human subject, ophthous patches upon the mucous membrane of the mouth are indicative of great constitutional debility. They are supposed to be accompanied by the growth of a microscopic fangus, discernible in most cases under a good objective. It is however, not strictly proper to speak of this appearance as a disease; it is the sign of a disease; the accompaniment and not the cause.

The nature of the "Foot and Mouth" disease is that of a low fever, often exhibiting typhoid characteristics, great debility quickly supervening, together with, at times, a tendency to putridity. Premising that, in this, as in other diseases, the appearances vary somewhat in different cases, as for instance, that sometimes the feet and sometimes the mouth is first or more seriously affected, etc., it may be said that, the earliest symptoms, generally, are a dull and listless appearance, staring coat, cold extremities and perhaps a shivering fit. Soon, however, a reaction follows; the skin, limbs and mouth become hot; in cows the secretion of milk diminishes and the udder becomes hot and tender, the pulse quickens and sometimes the tongue swells. In a day or two more, shivering and frothing at the mouth, which also becomes lined with watery blisters, and these also appear on the lips and tongue, and on the teats of cows. The food is frequently dropped out unmasticated, as if chewing were too painful to be endured. The little vesicles, or blisters, also appear between the hoofs; and the disease in the feet sometimes becomes so bad that not only is great pain caused by the inflammation, but the hoofs exfoliate and drop off.

After two or three days the blisters about the mouth gradually become opaque and at length burst and discharge an irritating watery fluid which increases the soreness; the cuticle comes off, leaving raw sores and shreds of loose skin. After some time these sores scab over and a healthy appearance gradually returns. Usually, during the first five or six days the malady increases in severity, after which amendment generally commences, and the beast slowly recovers. Sometimes the complaint becomes complicated with inflammation of some organ—as for instance, the lungs, in which case the danger is much greater. In milch cows the udder is often affected with tumors or abscesses constituting something very like what is commonly called garget. Those recently calved usually suffer most. *In no case should the milk from cows laboring under this malady, however slight the attack, be used for food*, as serious consequences have ensued from its use.

The treatment which has been bestowed upon this disease has varied with the opinions held concerning it; some of it may be fairly deemed barbarous; in other cases it has been guided by a more or less accurate knowledge of the pathology of the disease. From the best information at command, there can be little doubt that *good nursing* is of much more avail than medicine, although the latter *may be judiciously* used with advantage. Mild aperients, *but not active purgatives*, may be given in the early stages, as, for instance, a moderate dose of epsom salts. Astringents may be applied to the mouth. For an astringent and so-called healing application, a solution of tannin in glycerin, one part of the former in six of the latter, would probably be found best; a very little being occasionally applied to the mouth with a soft brush; but as this may not always be easily procured, a cheap subsitute may be found by dissolving an ounce of white vitriol (sulphate of zinc) in a pint of water. The feet should be *kept clean*; if part of the hoof separates, let it be pared away and a warm bran poultice applied. When inflammation abates, use the solution of white vitriol. If the udder becomes much inflamed, use the same poultice and wash as for the feet. When other food cannot be taken, mashes and gruels must be administered. Too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity of cleanliness.

Dr. Dewar of Kircaldy, sometime since proposed a method of cure for this malady which has been highly commended by those who have tried it; and which, whatever its merits as a curative measure, furnishes undoubtedly *the surest means of prevention, and of arresting its spread when once introduced into a herd*, which is yet known. This is the employment of sulphurous acid gas, in other words, simple fumigation with sulphur. It is of easy application and trifling cost; *care and judgment are however required*; let some bits of brimstone be burned on live coals contained in a suitable vessel or dish, and the fumes allowed to mix with the air of the building, penetrating every crevice and filling the coats of animals.

It was formerly thought that these fumes were highly deleterious; but such is not the case unless inhaled in excess. It would indeed be easy to induce complete suffocation; but the air may be so far impregnated with sulphurous acid as to be very disagreeable and uncomfortable to breathe, and no harm ensue, but great good. An ounce or two is enough to burn at once for a barn of from six to twelve or twenty cattle, and the operation should be repeated regularly twice a day. The fumes should pervade all parts of the room equally, and not be stronger than the attendant can bear with moderate discomfort.

The use of sulphites, in case of cattle disease, the efficacy of which depends on the same agent, namely, sulphurous acid, was spoken of in my report of 1868, pages 225, 228; and of this fumigation method, I may say that, while I have no personal knowledge of its efficacy in the Foot and Mouth disease, yet from what is stated of its success upon what appear to be reliable testimony, in connection with what is known of its use in arresting other epidemics, I have no hesitation in commending its employment; in this respect fully agreeing with the remarks of a writer in the (English) *Country Gentleman's Magazine*, who says "Our belief in the vafue of this means of 'combatting' epidemic illness, is materially strengthened by the expression of those who have for years habitually resorted to it, as a refuge, during the prevalence of familiar scourges, such as measles, scarletina, whooping cough, typhus fever, &c., by the remarkable and hitherto unwonted immunity from such which not only individuals, but families and even communities, have enjoyed, coincidental, to speak cautiously, with its intelligent and stated employment; from the reports which have reached the discoverer from all parts of the world, as to the, at least, modifying influence which it seemed to shed over intractable prevailing maladies; and last, not least, from the willingly accorded opinion of many of the 'heads' of the medical profession, that there is something more than mere probability in favor of the inferences, which, we think, may fairly be deduced from the whole history of the experiment. It has a rival in carbolic acid, the virtues of which are, within certain limits, uncontrollable, but for the purposes at present under consideration, the one is, from its intrinsic condition, as circumscribed in its operation as a caged lion, whereas the sphere of the sulphur agent we believe to be boundless; and it possesses the unique attributes of being always ready to comply with the command of 'go and be goeth,' in discharge of the benignant errand which it is not less fully competent to accomplish."

S. L. G.

For the Maine Farmer.

Talks about Farming---No. 7.

Something about Potatoes.

I planted last spring about three acres and a half of potatoes. Two and one-half acres on a good clay loam, gave a light yield—about seventy-five bushels to the acre. The land was an old sward and in fair condition, yielding from one-half to three-quarters of a ton of hay per acre. It was well plowed and the crop carefully tended, and should have produced at least one hundred and twenty-five bushels per acre. I fully expected to get as much when I planted it. But the season has been too dry for clay lands. During the whole period of their growth there was not sufficient rain to wet down to the roots of these potatoes, or hardly even to soften the crust about the hills.

An Acre in the South Field

did better, producing a little over two hundred and thirty bushels, heaping measure. This plat was planted partly as an experiment, and as the result, although by no means remarkable, may be considered at least satisfactory, some account of the method of cultivation may not be considered out of place. The piece, a deep sandy loam, was broken up the last of May. As there was some witch grass on it, I deferred plowing until quite ready to plant. For the same reason, I put on a strong team and turned it over ten inches deep, using a large plow of the South Paris pattern, that turns a perfectly flat flurrow. For light, mellow soils, I like no plow so well as this. It makes good work and is easy to guide. A practiced plowman with a steady team can easily keep his furrows straight and of even width—and this is the beauty of plowing. I never saw handsomer work than we made on this piece. After plowing, I spread on twenty two horse-loads (about six cords) of stable manure, and had it harrowed in as thoroughly as the dryness of the land would admit of. The ground was dry when we planted it, and the more we harrowed the drier it became, until at last it seemed like a bed of ashes, actually blowing in clouds of dust in the wake of the harrow. Owing to this, the manure mixed very little with the soil, lying for the most part in small, hard lumps on the surface. Thinking this would not do, I put on a heavy roller and rolled it over twice. This helped the matter a little, pressing the lumps down and compacting the dirt so that it would not blow. We then marked the piece off three feet each way; using a common horse marker one way, and furrowing with a light plow the other. My object in doing this was to keep the grass down by cultivating close up to the hills. The piece was planted about the first of June. For seed I selected medium and large sized tubers, cut them in two, and put two pieces in a hill, about eight inches apart. This was, of course, pretty heavy seeding; but as potatoes were cheap, I wanted to see whether large potatoes produced any better results than small ones. Through the middle of the piece I planted six rows with sets from some of the largest and handsomest tubers that I could find at digging time a year ago. The seed from which these were raised was also selected in the spring. My idea was, in this way to obtain superior stock for general planting. Of the result I will speak hereafter. As my seed was pretty well sprouted at planting, and the weather was warm, the plants came up in two weeks, strong and vigorous, and of that lively green color that is a sure indication of healthy growth. As soon as they were well up, I put on the cultivator and kept it running until the tubers were about forming, hoeing it twice by hand during the time. This gave the vines such a start that by the middle of July they covered the ground. And notwithstanding the severe drouth, they kept on growing and yielded a fair crop.

Lessons of the Experiment.

The peculiar features of this experiment, if it may be so called, are (1) the land was plowed and thoroughly worked before planting. (2) It was marked off and cultivated each way, the hills and rows being three feet apart. (3) The sets used were all from medium or large sized potatoes, and a portion of them were from choice selected tubers. As to the first two conditions I can only say that I am perfectly satisfied, being convinced that the plowing and planting were alike favorable to the crop. But as to any benefit being derived from large sets or selected seed, I am extremely doubtful. Perhaps their size may have been beneficial to the plants during the early stages of their growth. But, as a drawback, the proportion of small to large potatoes, was too large by far. I had them sorted in the field, and obtained of large marketable potatoes, one hundred and seventy-five bushels; of the second size a little over fifty-five bushels. Of these, however, at least one-half are large enough for seed—at least, I propose to use them for that purpose. The very small ones grew mostly upon a small sandy knoll, and I should think there were near one hundred to a hill. The six rows planted with selected seed I had dug by themselves, and as I expected a good deal from them, I was disappointed at not finding any material difference between and the rest of the field. Still, as I have strong faith in selected seed of all kinds—I do not mean to give it up, but propose to try again. But for ordinary planting I would not use seed larger than what may be called the medium size.

G. B. D.

South Norridgewock, Oct. 15, 1870.

For the Maine Farmer.

Lotter from Vermont.

As I write, the first snow that has shown any disposition to stay with us, has covered the hills, driven the scattering cattle and the remnants of the flocks down to the barns. The mild weather of the past thirty days—which has enabled the most of our stock to live in the fields—has given the farmers great courage as regards the amount of forage laid up for winter feed, The middle of December was very seldom, if ever, reached in this section of the country with as small holes in the hay mows as are found there to-day. So we see again how the great law of compensation comes in—and Nature shows us how she holds an even balance. But a few weeks ago, we were mourning over the effects of the severe drought, and calculating how much our herds and flocks must be reduced by sales, to fit them to the diminished amount of winter forage, and now Nature tempers down the usual cold of the first feeding month of the season, thereby shortening the winter in, nearly the same proportion, that she cut of the hay crops of the summer. But it is hard to see how she is going to "balance up" on the water question, if winter shuts down in earnest upon us now. Many wells and springs are dry, and those that never before gave any signs of failure, indicate to us the unwelcome fact that they cannot hold out much longer. If the skies give us no more rain, the inner fountains of the hills must fail, and the springs in the valleys go dry.

Notwithstanding the summer drought, such as never had been known before—stock has finished out the grazing season well, and comes to the barn in very good condition. In anticipation of short forage, many farmers have reduced their stock, at cheap rates. Sheep stand about where they did one year ago, as near to nothing as possible. A Merino buck, that five years ago would have sold for one hundred dollars, will not now make his owner so good a return as a fair sized tom-turkey. The cream of one of the "crack flocks" of Merinoes, made up of Hammond & Sanford blood, went under the hammer a few days since at $1.75 per head. Still, some sales are made of "culls" at from $2.00 to $4.00 per head. For the past two years our hills have been pretty well sprinkled over with "Long-wools," imported from over the Canadian border. They have not given very general satisfaction. The fences that have prove sufficient for our quiet Merinos are not of much account with them. They range at will over almost unlimited regions. A friend of mine tells me that the principal source of profit he expects to get out of them is from the fact, that he does not have to pasture them himself, for they will always get out and feed in the pasture of his neighbor. In this way he calculates to save all their summer keeping. With such prices for wool as have prevailed for the past three years, it would look as though sheep husbandry, as a leading branch of New England industry, must be given up. During this period many large flocks have been broken up and scattered—many men who invested the earnings of a score of years in Merinos, at war prices, have been hopelessly ruined, and experience to its full intent the feeling of John Randolph, and with him, would go a mile out of their way to get a good fair kick at a sheep.

But if this revulsion in the business ever teaches the New England farmer to look to the profit that may be derived from keeping a small number of sheep, on all small farms, as well as large, it will not be without its good result. They have yet to learn that when the pasture has all the cattle or horses it can carry through the summer, it will still give good keeping to at least one sheep to the acre, and more than that, if the pasture has a good supply of bushes and briars. Sheep kept in this manner become quiet in their habits, and hence take on fat more readily, and produce heavier fleeces. They can be so regulated that the lambs will mature early, and be ready for the market. The increase of a few ewes kept with the cows, would keep the numbers good and pay the expense of winter feeding, leaving all the fleeces as a profiton investment.

I see by the MAINE FARMER, one of the very best of all the papers in the country that comes to my table—that your Board is again at work arranging its winter sessions. Your State well deserves the high position and extended fame she has won for her foremost action in all matters pertaining to the interest of her agriculture. I hope the time may soon come when the Green Mountain State will imitate the noble example you have so long held out to her.

Woodstock, Dec. 16, 1870. QUEECHEE.

For the Maine Farmer.

Liquid Manure.

In the FARMER of Dec. 3d, I noticed W. Tyrone's way of making liquid manure. Such a preparation could not fail to produce a marked effect, but as urine in standing a week to become stale loses a part of its nitrogen in the form of escaping ammonia, I think fresh urine would be better. Mr. T.'s experiment would have been more satisfactory had he applied to the other end of his strawberry bed and row of peas, an equal quantity of fresh urine, and three and one-half ounces of gypsum, and one ounce of lime to each gallon, to supply an equal quantity of sulphuric acid and lime, as that contained in the preparation used and applied the fresh urine one week earlier, that it might have arrived at the same stage of decomposition. If fresh urine with gypsum would be equally effective, it would possess the advantages of being cheaper, and of being free from poisonous substances, lead and arsenic, found in commercial sulphuric acid, thus rendering the crop more healthful as food. That fermented manures act quicker than the same in a fresh state, is well known, but I believes it yet remains to be proved that they are on the whole more valuable, or that anything is ever gained by keeping them too fermented while crops are in need of them.

H.

For the Maine Farmer.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Washington County.

Officers of the Washington County Agricultural Society, for the ensuing year:—Levi Fisher, President; Wm. R. Waterman, Geo. O. Lincoln, Wm. F. Waterman, Vice Presidents; Peter E. Vose, Treasurer and Collector; Leonard Fisher, Secretary, Agent and Librarian; Moses L. Wilder, Andrew Roger, Thos. McCarlie, Trustees; Lucas W. Gardner, Isaac Shields, Thos. Robinson, Committee on Manufactures; Wm. R. Waterman, John W. Porter, Wm. H. Lincoln, Committee on Stock; Daniel J. Fisher, Luther Lakin, Geo. Mathewson, Committee on Crops, Farms, &c. L. F.

Remedy for Scours in Calves.

In No. 2, Dec. 17th, I noticed an inquiry from W. F. H. for a remedy for scouring in calves. Take one pint of red oak acorns, break the shells, and steep thoroughly in three pints of water and you will have one quart of the tea. Give one pint of the same, warm, for the first dose and twelve hours after if necessary. I never knew more than two doses required to effect a cure.

SUMNER LEACH.

North Warren, Dec. 19*th.*

Farmers' Clubs in Waldo County.

The county of Waldo has seven Farmers' Clubs located, as follows:—At Belfast, Prospect, Winterport, Monroe, Brooks, Montville, Unity.

B.

For the Maine Farmer.

Insects Injurious to Farm Stock--No. 3.

The Cattle-Louse.

There are several kinds of lice (*Pediculi*) which are found upon cattle, but the most common is the cattle-louse, *Hæmatopinus vituli*, which is the polish brown species so often found upon our cattle in the barns. It is a degraded insect, is without wings and procreates viviparously. This specie is about one-tenth of an inch long with a small, narrow head, and is parasitic on both cattle and horses. They are furnished with a sucker, by means of which they suck out the juices and blood of the animal, causing an itching and irritation.

Nearly any of the various remedies proposed and in vogue, prove effectual, but perhaps the simplest is to anoint the parts where the most congregate, with some soft grease, as lard, &c., or with an oil, as lamp oil. The lice cannot live where oil or grease of any kind is present. Do not apply strong alkaline preparations as ashes, lime, &c., nor benzine or kerosene, as they are dangerous.

G. E. B.

Farmers' Clubs.

For the Maine Farmer.

Farmers' Clubs in North Knox.

We learn that Mr. Geo. E. Brackett has lately been lecturing and organizing farmers' clubs in Knox county, under the auspices of the North Knox Agricultural and Horticultural Society. The towns within the limits of this society are Warren, Hope, Union, Washington and Appleton, and it was proposed to have a lecture in each town, but the very unpropituous weather at the time, prevented the programme being carried out fully.

On Wednesday evening Mr. Brackett delivered a lecture entitled, "A Plea for a fuller and better education for farmers and farmers' boys," at Union Village. There is a farmers' club formed there. On Thursday evening he gave a lecture on "The relations of science to agriculture," at Washington Mills. A farmers' club was also organized at the close of the lecture, with the following officers:—President, Geo. A. Miller; Vice President, Thos. Suckforth; Secretary, John L. Rockwell; Treasurer, John Bryant. Evening of meetings, Saturday, and the subject for discussion at the next meeting was to be, "What is the best method of reclaiming worn out farms?" This clubs starts with some good material, and promises to do a good work. The Secretary will occasionally send items of its discussions to the FARMER.

On Friday afternoon a very pleasant, social meeting was held at McLain's Mills, Appleton. The club there has the following officers:—President, Charles A. Keen; Secretary, Benj. F. Sprague; Treasurer, A. F. Brown—meets Tuesday evening. Subject for discussion at the next meeting—"Resolved, that orcharding is the most profitable branch of farming for this section.

The North Knox is a comparatively new society, having held but two annual exhibitions. Its place of exhibition is not yet located, but it is held in each town in turn. That for this year, 1870, was held at Warren village, and was entirely successful, and it gives promise of being one of the best working societies in the State. One of the by-laws of the society is to the effect that there shall be no horse racing allowed at the annual exhibitions, neither shall the society in any way countenance it. We shall now know by experience whether an agricultural society in Maine can be carried on successfully without the demoralizing effect of horse-racing. So far, there has been no need of it. Success to them in their endeavors. The officers of the society consist of a President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a Trustee and agent in each town. The present President is N. Alford of Hope; Secretary, Wm. Gleason of Union; Trustees, Silas Hawes, Union; H. G. McCurdy, Washington; James Creighton, Warren; A. D. Wiley, Appleton.

This society comprises the best agricultural section of Knox county, the towns lying principally in the Georges river valley, where there is much good soil and many fine farms. Blooded stock is being gradually introduced into these towns, both Mr. Hawes and Mr. McCurdy having fine Short-horn bulls from Mr. Percival's herd. Mr. Alford has a flock of fifty sheep, grade Downs, which, last spring, averaged seven pounds of wool apiece.

A new member of the Board of Agriculture is to be elected from Knox county this month, and he will probably be taken from this society.

Cox.

For the Maine Farmer.

To Farmers' Clubs.

A year ago, I made a request through the columns of the MAINE FARMER, that the Secretary of every Farmers' Club in Maine would send me a list of the names and post office address of its officers. Some of them promptly, and others tardily responded to the request, until the larger part were not heard from. To all such, a package of Reports was sent for distribution to its members.

I now repeat the request, desiring to know, with regard to every club in the State, the names and post office address of its officers, its age, the number of members, and briefly, what it is doing, and with what success its efforts are attended. I cannot repeat the offer before made, to furnish such clubs as are forming libraries, with copies of the Agricultural Reports of past years, the supply being almost entirely exhausted; but in respect of future issues, I know of no reason why the Board of Agriculture will not continue to regard these clubs as a most desirable means of distributing its reports among the farmers of the State, and especially among those of them most interested in the advancement of agriculture. Secretaries will please address me at Saco, Me.,

S. L. GOODALE,
Sec'y Board of Agriculture.

For the Maine Farmer.

North Franklin.

The Farmers' Club of North Franklin met and organized at Strong, Saturday, Dec. 3d, by choice of the following officers: James M. Kempton, President; Geo. H. McCleary, Secretary. First question—"The winter care of Stock;" opened by C. C. Buck, who gave his method of feeding stock so as to allow him to attend to other business through the day. He feeds at five o'clock in the morning, gives time to eat a light foddering; waters and feeds again; waters and feeds twice at night. A. C. True believed it pays to feed all the grain raised on the farm.

At a meeting Dec. 10th, the question, "Resolved that it is better for farmers and farmers' sons of Franklin county to remain at home than to emigrate," was discussed, and finally unanimously decided that Maine offers inducements equal to any other part of the country. For the meeting to be held Dec. 17th, the following question will be discussed: "Resolved, that it will be for the interest of the farmers of North Franklin, to establish a cheese factory at some convenient point in the county." Disputants—I. Mitchell, J. M. Kempton.

Strong. G. H. MCCLEARY.

For the Maine Farmer.

South Litchfield.

A few of the farmers at South Litchfield met at the school house in district No. 5, on the 10th of December, and organized a farmers' club, by choosing the following officers:—S. Powers, President; D. M. Emerson, Vice President; L. E. Grant, Secretary and Treasurer. A committee consisting of Samuel Smith, J. S. Sawyer, and S. G. Emerson, was appointed to select questions and disputants for each evening. The club made choice of D. M. Emerson, L. E. Grant and Samuel Smith, to draft bylaws, after which Samuel Smith was appointed to read an essay at the next meeting on such subject, pertaining to farming, as he chose to select. After listening to some interesting remarks from the President and other gentlemen present, the club adjourned until Dec. 15th, when the following question will be discussed, viz., "Resolved, That fruit growing is more profitable than any other branch of farming." Affs., L. E. Grant; Neg. Thos. McCausland.

We do not boast of a large amount of talent in this section of "down east," but we are bound to use what little brains we have to see if we cannot improve our present system of farming.

CARL.

South Litchfield.

Woman's Department.

Remedy for Worms in Children.

Mrs. A. N. N., writes to the Woman's Department in this way: "Doctors, I know, will generally poh! at you when you talk about worms troubling children; although my physician was one honest enough to admit that worms *did* make children sick, and he had no doubt caused the death of thousands every year. Mothers know very well the symptoms of worms—the restless nights, with grating of teeth, sudden crying out in sleep, red cheeks, with a pale look about the mouth and nose, lips distended, thirst, dry cough, and the little complaints of 'stomach ache.' Now I will tell you my remedy. I let the child drink freely of strong sage tea, clear and unsweetened, although a very little sugar can be added to make it easier to be given if the child dislikes the taste of it. This remedy was told me by an old and experienced nurse and housekeeper, who said it was the best thing for worms. I have proved it from several years' trial to be better than tansy tea, which is sometimes given, or the various patent loze nges, troches, &c., some of which I have had experience with. Try it, you mothers who have children suffering from the above symptoms."

Keep it Well Filled.

Mrs. M. S. C., writes: "We like the FARMER better than ever now that we women can have a corner to ourselves; let us be sure to keep it well filled. [That's the talk.] If you learn something that will be useful to your rural sisters, send it at once to our corner, that we may all have the good of it. If you are not used to writing the effort will do you good, and you will experience a real satisfaction in seeing your own ideas in print, and in feeling that you have tried to help others."

Good Food for Children.

A new contributor to this Department speaks thus sensibly about the use of unbolted wheat and graham flour:

"If the children are going to school they want brain producing food, and there is nothing better than wheat, not bolted flour, but all parts of the kernael. Boiled whole, salted and eaten with milk or sweetened cream it is very wholesome; or ground into graham and made into mush, it is a quick got up dish and with sugar and cream is seldom refused. Muffins are

Another Nice Dish.

Stir the graham flour up with water and a little salt, pretty thick, and bake in small cakes. They must be small to be light; an iron dish with small compartments is what you need. If you haven't got one, go without a ruffle or two and buy one. Never sift graham flour if you want the best of it."

A Request.

We should regard it a favor if correspondents contributing to this column would in all cases sign their full name and post office address; as we like to know who our friends are and where they live. Of course they will in no case be published if a request to the contrary is made.

Cultivation of House Plants.

Readers of this department will all be interested in the following hints on house plants, from our welcome contributor, A. B., Monroe

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, December 31, 1870.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.
$3.00 in advance, or $3.50 if not paid within Three Months of the date of Subscription.

☞All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for moneys remitted by him.

☞A subscriber desiring to change the post office direction of his paper must communicate to us the *name of the office to which it has been previously sent*, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

The great expense we are incurring for the enlargment and improvement of the FARMER, renders it necessary for us to begin the year with as large number of advance paying subscribers as possible. We have many names upon our list who are in arrears for the paper for one, two and three years—some of them for a still longer period. According to our published terms, these delinquent subscribers are charged at the rate of $2.50 per annum, which they are legally and morally bound to pay. We wish to make them a proposition, which we think all of them will regard a liberal one, and of which we truth they will take immediate advantage:

All persons in arrears who will send us the amount now due, at the rate of $2 per year, and two dollars in addition shall receive credit for all past indebtedness, and for a year's subscription in advance. This offer to stand open until the 1st of January, 1871. *All payments made at this office, or by mail, or to our authorized agents, previous to that date, will be credited in accordance with the terms above stated.*

Collectors' Notices.

MR. S. I. SMALL will visit Franklin county during the month of November and December.

MR. S. N. TABER will canvass the county of Waldo during the months of December and January.

MR. V. DARLING is now canvassing Lincoln county.

The Enormities of the Tariff.

In another column we give a brief sketch of General Brinkerhoff on the tariff, in his speech in Augusta recently, and we take this occasion to express our own opinion on the matter.

The tariff of the United States is at the same time a grevious wrong and a stupendous folly. It not only takes from the people the money necessary to support the goverment, and compels them to pay hundreds of millions, a year to support and enrich a few favored industries, but in attempting to protect everybody its incongruous provisions sacrifice many industries and really benefit only a few.

At the beginning of the late war the government found itself with a very insufficient revenue. With well-meant but short-sighted zeal, Congress laid excessive taxes on internal industry, and a high tariff on imports. This was understood to be a war measure, to be repealed when the war should close. But the monopolists saw their chance, and having once got the duties laid in their favor, determined to hold on to them. Honest manufacturers, too, feeling the pressure of heavy taxation on their business, looked to Congress for relief by shutting out foreign competition. So the tariff grew until it became not so much a means of revenue as an obstruction to commerce, depriving us of the advantages we had formerly derived from exchanging our products for those of foreign countries, compelling us to buy of home producers at extravagant prices. Honest protectionists in Congress sought to protect all industries alike, blind to the fact that the very essence and virtue of protection is a taxation of all for the direct benefit of a few, and that where everybody is taxed for the benefit of everybody else there is no gain to any one. Universal and equal protection is no protection. If honest men did not see this point the rogues did; and by a union of their forces they have thus far maintained duties that are of immense advantage to a few interests and a curse to everybody else. The duties on iron, salt, coal, lumber, and many other articles are plundering the public to a fearful extent. Think of our paying *forty millions a year* for the exclusive benefit of the producers of iron, while the tax that gives them this only gives the government *five millions*.

As shown by General Brinkerhoff, there is no need nf these duties. A few articles will give all the revenue we want, and relieve the people of a vast load of taxation. Why is it not done? Because the monopolists rule at Washington. There are now sitting on the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, several members who are pecuniarily interested in some of the most grievous duties on the tariff, day after day voting money into their own pockets. Is it not a shame that this committee should thus be surrendered to the public robbers?

Why protest any industry? Why force or encourage our citizens to produce that which can be obtained cheaper from abroad? The employment of labor and capital in business that does not naturally pay, is a waste of both. The old argument of the protectionist, and the only argument worth a tow string, was that our manufactures were in their infancy; that we must just protect them for a few years, and soon they would be established and self-sustaining. Well, this infant is now some fifty years old; and is he ready to be weaned yet? Oh no! the sweet milk of public generosity is too good to give up.

It is time to put a stop to this system of legalized plunder. Let us get back as rapidly as possible to the condition of things before the war, and then adopt a descending scale of duties on those articles that were at that time taxed for the sake of protection, so that by and by we may get down to hard pan, where each industry may stand on its own bottom. We would not have the government abandon at once those industries that it had promised to foster during their infancy; but we would have them understand that their infancy is to have an end within the present century, and that the weaning process is to commence forthwith.

The immediate effect of a repeal of the excessive duties that have been imposed since 1860, would be a great relief to the heavily taxed people. They could fare better without working harder. Many industries that are now languishing for want of raw materials would revive. The great burden of the public debt would then be easy to bear, and with the increase in general prosperity the revenues would be augmented and we should soon be able to pay it off.

EXHIBITION AT FARMINGTON. We learn from the *Chronicle*, that the committee appointed to make arrangements for an exhibition of fruits and vegetables during the session of the Board of Agriculture at Farmington next week, have decided to have the same in the Court House, on the 5th and 6th. All who intend to contribute are requested to leave their articles at the residence of Dr. P. Dyer, on or before the first day of the exhibition. Let there be a grand display of the fruits, vegetables and seeds of Franklin county.

KENNEBEC LAW CLUB. An association of the young attorneys and students at law of Kennebec county, has been formed under the above name, in this city, for mutual social, intellectual and professional improvement. The officers are as follows: F. H. Jackson, President; W. S. Choate, Vice President; J. G. Abbott, Secretary; H. S. Webster, Treasurer; and Orville D. Baker as Committee on Questions.

CHRISTMAS BEEF. Mr. A. F. Emery of this city, purchased for his Christmas customers last week a handsome pair of three-year-old steers of Rev. W. A. P. Dillingham of Sidney, which girthed seven feet two inches and dressed 2073 pounds. Some of the beef is on exhibition at the meat market of Mr. Emery on Market Square.

☞Owing to a serious accident to our cylinder press, the publication of the FARMER will be delayed this week several hours, and some of our subscribers will fail to receive their papers at the usual time. We are indebted to the courtesy of our neighbors of the *Kennebec Journal* for kindly assistance in the emergency which we should be glad to reciprocate should the occasion unfortunately require it.

The Events of 1870.

Compared with the greater part of the present decade, the year of 1870 has been to the United States a very quiet one. The excitement attendant upon the great civil strife and the reconstruction of the Union has been slowly dying away, and with it the animosities of race and section. Important political measures, growing out of the war, have been consummated, but they had been so predetermined by the events of other years that they have scarcely attracted the attention that would seem due to their character. Foremost among political events is the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, securing the right of suffrage to citizens of whatever race. The admission of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas to representation in Congress, almost completes the work of reconstruction.

Financially the year has been a success. The public debt has been lessened more than a hundred millions; and Congress has made changes in the tax and tariff laws that relieve the people of taxation to a nominal extent of eighty millions, but really of a greater amount; and yet when all these changes have gone into effect the revenue will be ample, and the reduction of the debt can still go on at a moderate rate.

The ninth census has been taken, and our population found to be about 38,000,000. This does not indicate as rapid growth as we have made in some decades, but it is as favorable an exhibit as could be expected in a decade including four years of civil war. Immigration from Europe still continues to pour great floods of humanity upon our shores, and the past year has seen the first attempt to turn part of the stream to the unoccupied lands of Maine. If all our hopes of the colony of New Sweden are realized, it will be a great year in the history of Maine. Another phase of immigration has for the first time attracted the attention of New England; and caused no little stir. The crooked-eyed celestials have in their eastward movement suddenly invaded the old State of Massachusetts.

The foremost social problem of the times, the position of woman, has been slowly working itself out. In Utah an act providing for woman suffrage has been passed; in Wyoming women have sat as jurors, and acquitted themselves well. Right at home we have seen women stepping into places before exclusively occupied by men. In England they have been elected to serve on the School Board of London. Altogether substantial progress has been made toward a recognition of the right of woman to be a worker in this busy world, doing whatever she can do well.

In the list of accidents we have to chronicle the fall of the Richmond court house; and several unusually distressing marine disasters—the sinking of the Oneida by the Bombay, near Yokohama, the mysterious disappearance of the City of Boston, and the wreck of the Cambria, on the coast of Ireland.

Among the dead of the year are Farragut and Dahlgren of our navy, Gen. Thomas of our army, Robert E. Lee of Virginia, Pierre Soute of Louisiana, Anson Burlingame, the cosmopolitan, Charles Dickens, Alexander Dumas—some shining names here.

But it is in the political movements of Europe that history has been making on the grandest scale. The military power of France, believed by most people to be second to none in Europe, has crumbled like ashes in the grasp of that great Germany whom she dared to provoke. The empire of Napoleon III, lately sanctioned in an emphatic manner by the French people, has gone down before the mob, and the mob seems to be now quite as well sanctioned by France as was the empire before. The fallen and captive monarch sees his foes accomplish that very unity which he most of all desired to prevent. Italy has taken advantage of the preoccupation of her guardian to do what she has long desired but been restrained from. Rome has been occupied, annexed and made the capital of Italy. The aged Pope, Pio Nono, after having been this very year pronounced, by a great council, infallible in things spiritual, is suddenly stripped of his temporal power, and out of forty thousand of his former subjects can count only forty-six in favor of a continuation of his reign. The King of Italy has with this stroke of good fortune had yet another; for his son is called to the throne of Spain. And thus poor Spain, after several years of tribulation, and vascillation and disorder, in the course of which she has furnished the pretext for the greatest war of the country, settles down again to the humdrum of hereditary royalty.

The natural phenomena of the year have been interesting. It began with a winter of unusual mildness in America and of unusual severity in Europe. The remainder of the year has been remarkably warm on both continents. The summer months were the hottest of the century. But little rain has fallen, and in parts of America and Europe the drouth has been unexampled. Yet good crops of most of the staple products have been gathered, and we enter upon the new year with good prospects.

☞Christmas in this city was celebrated this year with more than ordinary demonstrativeness, the festivities commencing on Saturday evening, and continuing through Sunday and Monday, the 25th and 26th insts. Judging from the throngs of people which filled the stores during the preceding week, in search of Christmas gifts for friends and loved ones, and the immense number of packages received and delivered here by the express agents, it would seem hard if any one was overlooked or forgotten on the joyous occasion. At several of the churches on Saturday evening, presents were distributed to the Sabbath School children from the well filled Christmas trees, and on Sunday morning, according to immemorial custom, the hearts of thousands of old and young were made glad by the benevolent visits of Santa Claus. From the pulpits of all our churches the day was appropriately noticed, and gratitude and praise went up, we trust, from every heart, for the rich joys and blessings of the Christmas time. Monday being the legal and secular holiday, was generally observed by the closing of places of business, and giving the day to social enjoyment. On the whole, we think Christmas this year has been the best kept holiday in the calendar, and we hope it will continue to grow in popular favor until it shall be universally recognized and honored as a day of social and religious enjoyment the world over.

☞In the dispensation of Christmas gifts and other good things, the ministers of our city are not forgotten by their people. On Friday evening last, the parishioners of Rev. C. R. Moor, of the Winthrop street Universalist Church, surprised their pastor by a visit to his residence *en masse*, and the presentation to him and his estimable lady of two handsome and comfortable easy chairs, and some other elegant and useful articles of household ware, to the value of about one hundred and twenty-five dollars. On the following Monday evening, Rev. Mr. Martin, of the Methodist Church, was visited in a similar manner, and made the recipient of a purse of $100 in greenbacks, and several elegant silver pieces for the table. We hope to chronicle several other similar ministerial surprises before the holidays are over.

☞The weather in Maine during the past week, although severe enough for out-of-doors operations, will bear favorable comparison with the temperature West and South. In this city on Friday last, the coldest of the season, thus far, the thermometer stood at 6 o'clock A. M. at 2 degrees below zero, and on the summit of Mt. Washington only 10 below, while in Illinois and Wisconsin, the press dispatches inform us it ranged from 14 down to 20 below zero. At Peoria, Ill. it was 20 below; at Jacksonville, 10 below; at Greene 16 below; at Springfield 11 below.

☞Mr. E. S. Weeks of Vassalboro has hauled this fall 250 tons of Slate from the Winslow quarry, for Simon Page & Co. of Hallowell, to grind into Patent Roofing, &c.

MANUFACTURING AT DEXTER. During a recent visit to this enterprising place, we spent a short time in looking about the village and noting the improvements made since our last visit some dozen years ago. The place is a growing one, and within the past few years many dwellings have erected, some of them first class, together with a number of other buildings, including a fine town-house with a hall capable of seating eight hundred persons. The water power of this village is one of the most important in the State, and is now very well improved although many good sites for mills are still unoccupied. The outlet stream of Dexter pond,—head waters of the Sebasticook—furnish the most important powers, the fall being 142 feet in three quarters of a mile. The following exhibit of the manufacturing operations of the place will be interesting to our readers: The Dexter Mills Company have three factories, and employ about three hundred and twenty-five hands. They manufacture ladies' cloths, repellants, silk mixed and fancy cassimeres and doeskins. Their goods have a high reputation. Their machinery consists of twenty sets of cards, forty jacks, one hundred and five broad and thirty-four narrow looms. The invested capital of the company is two hundred thousand dollars. Amos Abbott & Co. employ thirty-six hands in the manufacture of fancy cassimeres, doeskins, flannels and the celebrated "Dexter double and twist." The capital of this firm is about fifty thousand dollars, and they work up annually nearly one hundred thousand pounds of wool. The same firm also own a superior custom grist and flouring mill which has four run of stones. Charles Shaw owns a large tannery at which he tans 35,000 sides of sole leather annually, employing seventeen men, with an invested capital of seventy-five thousand dollars. Eldridge Brothers manufacture doors, sash, blinds, churns, planing machines &c. employing eight men; capital twelve thousand dollars. Pennington & Tibbets, do a considerable business in the manufacture of household furniture, having a capital of ten thousand dollars and giving employment to seven or eight men. A foundry, owned by N. Dustin & Co. is doing a smart business in the manufacture of plows, harrows, stoves, and castings of all kinds, employing half a dozen men; capital, ten thousand dollars. E. T. Rogers & Co. have ten thousand dollars in a general millwright and machinist business, employing four men. A new enterprise has just been started by Messrs. Parsons & Abbott in the manufacture of a new kind of mop-handle of which eight hundred are made per day. They have a capital of about five thousand dollars and give employment to four men. The saw mill of J. & G. A. Abbott works up about one million feet of lumber per year. The above firms represent a united capital of nearly four hundred thousand dollars. There are in addition numerous smaller manufacturing operations of which we have not time to speak. The village has two good hotels, the old established Dexter House, and the Merchant's Exchange, the latter a new house—where the MAINE FARMER may always be found—kept by L. D. Hayes, who, as well as his excellent and accomplished wife knows "how to keep a hotel." The people support a good local paper, the *Gazette*, the young publishers of which, we hope are getting rich. The Newport & Dexter R ilroad, a branch of the Maine Central is doing a heavy freight business, and is already paying good dividends. We are under great obligations to Charles Shaw Esq for kind attentions at the time of our brief visit.

☞The Capital Guards of this city visited Portland on Monday last, as the guests of the Portland Light Infantry. On their arrival at the depot they were received by their brethren in arms, and marched through the principal streets to City Hall, where they were welcomed in a handsome complimentary speech by Mayor Kingsbury, thence to the Preble House, where they sat down to an elegant dinner provided by their military entertainers. A grand ball in honor of the visitors was given in the evening, which is described as a most brilliant and enjoyable affair. Tuesday was spent by the members of the Company in visiting the places of interest in Portland, and in pleasant social intercourse, and in the evening they returned home delighted with their trip and the cordial and hospitable entertainment given them by their Portland brethren.

☞The Portland *Star* suggests the appointment of a State Auditor—a thoroughly incorruptible and accomplished business man, who should have the custody of all the accounts and business of the State, which is not classified and by law given under the charge of the established departments. If it be true, what is reported of the unwarranted and extravagant expenditure of the money of the State on the Peabody funeral, and in pleasure visits of the Governor and Council to other States, it is certainly high time that such an office should be created. The people of Maine would like to know what becomes of their money.

☞The widow of the late Hon. A. K. P. Welch of Cambridge, Mass., was found dead on Friday morning last, in a bath tub at her residence. A domestic went to her bed-room as usual to call Mrs. W., and finding that her bed had not been disturbed looked in the bath-room and found her dead. Heart disease is supposed to have been the cause of her sudden death. Mrs. Welch had been an invalid for several years. She was the only daughter and eldest child of James Goff, Esq., of Auburn. She was 49 years of age.

☞The Lewiston *Journal* says of the arrangement made by Franc s Skinner & Co's trustees for settlement with the large mills at twenty-five cents on the dollar, will be successfully carried through if the settlement with the other creditors can be effected. It is proposed to capitalize the debt of the Vassalboro and other mills not belonging to the class first named.

☞Hon. Asher Barton of Benton, the newly elected Sheriff of Kennebec County, who has been sick several months, is now rapidly recovering. It is not expected however, that he will be able to assume the duties of his office on the first of January, and a temporary appointment of Sheriff will probably be made by the Court.

☞Hon. Axel Hayford, Superintendent of the Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad, announces that on Monday last trains commenced running regularly between Belfast and Boston. Passenger trains leave Belfast for Boston at 7 A. M., running to Burnham Junction in time to connect with the train to Boston from Bangor. Returning will leave Burnham Junction at 5.45 P. M. on the arrival of the western train.

☞The capital punishment question was discussed in the Military Asylum Debating Society on Friday evening last, and probably with about as much wisdom and knowledge of the merits of the question as was evinced last winter in the Maine Legislature, the vote was in favor of hanging.

☞The forty-seventh volume of the Legislative *Kennebec Journal* commences on the first of January, and will contain full reports of the proceedings of the fiftieth Legislature, which commences its sessions on Wednesday next. The daily will be furnished at $2.00 for the session.

☞The Kennebec river was closed to navigation last week, and is now passable for teams as far below us as Gardiner. The indications are favorable for an abundant ice harvest.

☞Mr. H. G. Williams of Belgrade, is entitled to our thanks for a liberal contribution to our porringer of some nice eating apples from his orchard.

☞Rev. Mr. Moor will begin a series of special discourses at the Winthrop Street Universalist Church, next Sunday evening. The subject of the first sermon will be "Man."

Gen. Brinkerhoff's Address.

The address by Gen. Brinkerhoff, at Granite Hall on Wednesday evening last, on the subject of Free Trade and Protection, was listened to with earnest and respectful attention by those present. The following report, embodying an abstract of his remarks, will give our readers some idea of the substance of his argument on the occasion:

Free trade, as the term is used now-a-days by those calling themselves free traders, does not mean an absolute freedom from restrictions, but a freedom from all burdens except those necessary to provide means for carrying on the government. To all tariffs for this purpose free traders yield a willing assent.

A tariff is simply a tax. If all the money it takes from us goes into the treasury of the country, well and good; if the government only gets part of it, we may be sure there is something wrong. By this test the tariff of the United States is to be tried. The most noticeable thing about our tariff is its bulkiness. We tax over four thousand different articles. Great Britain, that nation of vast experience in these matters, taxes less than twenty articles. Our duties average sixty per cent. in gold; Great Britain's only eight per cent.

It is a rule to which there are few exceptions, that whenever a duty is levied on articles that we import and also make at home, we enhance the price, both of the imported article and of the home product. This rule will be found strictly true of the great staples of lumber, iron, coal, salt, &c.

Now to see where the money taken from us by the tariff goes. Take pig iron, of which two million tons were consumed in this country last year. On this the people paid eighteen million dollars tax. Of this vast sum, a little over one million dollars went into the treasury; the remainder, nearly seventeen millions, went into the coffers of the iron masters. It is the same with bar iron and railroad iron. On all kinds of iron, we find forty-five millions of dollars, of which only five millions reached the treasury. Pennsylvania got the rest. The tariff on leather has a similar effect. The tax on bituminous coal, to keep out the cheap coal of Nova Scotia, cost the people of the Atlantic States last year twelve millions and a half, and the government only got six hundred thousand; and the poor widows and orphans, whose husbands and fathers had given their lives for their country, and who ought to be the wards of the nation, were shivering by the nation's acts.

Salt is an article that ought to be as free as possible. There is a duty of 150 to 200 per cent. on all the grades made by the Onondaga Salt Company, and out of this the government gets not a single penny, because such a duty entirely prevents the importation of any of that class of salt, while the people have to buy the salt made by a few concerns in the interior, and pay their prices. An American cannot buy salt of the Onondaga Company at their works for less than $2.35 per barrel; but the same company sells salt in Toronto at $1.60 per barrel, charges paid. That infamous company having by a trick of legislation at Albany obtained a monopoly of the brine from the State salt wells, and at Washington a high duty on salt, has on a working capital of $160,000 made many millions, and now maintains an agent at Albany every winter, and another at Washington during each session, to keep the legislation of the State in repair.

As with iron and salt, so with many other articles. The effect of all these duties is *to send prices to the moon*. Everything has doubled in price, from a ten penny nail to a trip-hammer. It costs twice as much to build a house now as it did ten years ago, because this tariff has raised the price of all the articles that enter into its construction—lumber, iron of all kinds, paints and oils, &c.

If we look at duties on blankets, on woolen shawls, on carpets, we find that the coarser articles, such as are used by the poor, are taxed much higher in proportion to their value than the finer sorts. On woolen shawls, for instance, the duties range from 132 to 384 per cent., and on that whole line of articles the government gets comparatively nothing, because the duties are almost prohibitory.

In fact, most of the articles taxed produce little or nothing in revenue. One-half of our revenue comes from ten articles; and three-quarters of it comes from thirteen articles. Three-quarters of the present revenue would be ample. We should still have a large surplus annually to devote to the payment of the public debt. Free traders are willing the government should have all the revenue it wants. Millions for revenue, but not a cent for protection. The remedy for present evils lies in the abolition of the duties on all but a few leading articles. Let the duties be retained only on tea, coffee, sugar, molasses, spices, fruits, wines and spirits, tobacco, glass, silk, linen, tin, furs, gloves of skin, nuts, sardines, chocolate, opium and liquorice. These articles will produce all the revenue we need. Tea, coffee and sugar should pay duties. The tax on these is among the cheapest taxes we pay, because the government gets it all. Fifty-five millions was raised on these three articles last year, and this cost each consumer only four cents a week, or $2.08 a year. Is there not patriotism enough in the American people to bear this small burden for the sake of the large amount of money it puts into the treasury?

But free traders are not anxious to effect this reform suddenly. They are willing to accept for the present Mr. Wells's tariff, which would produce a hundred and fifty millions a year, and would save the people three hundred millions. Repeal at once the duty on coal and salt, and reduce it on iron.

"Oh, but you are going to destroy our American manufactures!" This is a great humbug. What manufactures would be injured by free trade? Would the housebuilders? No, for they are most in want of cheap material, so that people may build more houses. Not the blacksmith, for he wants cheap iron. Not the stone mason nor the furniture-maker, nor the harness maker. Not the boot and shoe-maker, for we used to make boots and shoes for the world. Is it the cotton manufacturer? Gov. Sprague himself is a free trader; he says that he now pays more for protection than he gets. Is it the woolen manufacturer? Harris, the greatest woolen manufacturer in the country, is an ardent free trader; and to-day two thirds of the woolen mills in the country lie idle because of the tariff, which shuts out certain foreign wools necessary to make certain kinds of goods. Is it ship-building? From the day this tariff went into effect your shipping decreased at the rate of half a million tons a year. This is not the work of the Alabama; it is the work of the tariff on all materials entering into the construction of ships.

The "balance of trade" argument, and the "pauper labor" argument, and the "home market" argument are equally unsound. The pet industries of woolen, cotton and iron manufacture only employ 160,000 persons in the whole country. Were they to subsist entirely on the agricultural products of the land, they would consume only four per cent. of them, and were they all swept out of existence it would not cause the price of wheat to rise four cents on a bushel.

Government ought to let things alone; not attempting, as it does now, to determine what industries the people shall follow. Since protection was abandoned in England, wages have risen twenty per cent., poverty decreased, and comfort and happiness increased.

Agriculture is and must always be our greatest interest. So long as we export grain its price will be fixed abroad, in competition with foreign grain. The cost of getting a bushel of wheat from the western States to Liverpool is seventy-two cents. This great cost of transportation is largely owing to tax on materials of which railroads are built. Yet in spite of all these disadvantages the farmer is taxed at home for the benefit of other industries. The cost of making his crop is increased by the tariff on the iron and steel of which his tools are made.

Our present system renders God's bounties useless. Every new discovery of a natural resource is made a pretext for new burdens under the guise of protection. Once we got borax from the Mediterranean for twenty cents a pound; but somebody discovered a borax lake in Nevada, and got a duty put upon the article, so that now it costs us fifty cents a pound. In the same way the discovery of emery in Massachusetts caused the price of that article to double.

Protection is wrong in its fundamental principles. It assumes to take the profits that fairly belong to the foreigner, and put them into the pockets of our own citizens. But a just Heaven has decreed that the nation that attempts this robery shall fail of its object.

The people must rise in their might and overthrow this system. It is not a question that belongs to parties. It is a question of right, against the tariff which is a gigantic wrong. The present is an important crisis in the affairs of the country. No section will long be contented under burdens imposed for the benefit of other sections. Without equal and just taxation, our institutions cannot endure.

☞Mr. Jewett, the newly appointed Senator from Missouri, is a native of Maine, a brother of Hon. Albert G. Jewett of Belfast, and formerly a well known and successful lawyer of Bangor. He has been a resident of St. Louis for the past nine years, has been a member of the State Legislature, and is said to be an astute and active politician.

British brig Sharon was sunk by collision with an unknown vessel off Landy on the night of the 15th. Crew saved by sch. Charles T. Heyer from Portland, and taken into New York.

A TERRIBLE STEAMBOAT DISASTER. On Sunday night, Dec. 18th, the steamer Nick Wall, on her passage from St. Louis for Vicksburg, struck a snag at Grand Lake on the Mississippi, and was totally wrecked. She had on board two hundred and fifty souls, all of whom are supposed to be lost except about fifty or seventy-five who were rescued. One of the survivors of the catastrophe, a passenger, has arrived at Memphis and gives the following details of the disaster:

The Wall struck the snag at 10.30 on that night and sunk in less than ten minutes in 40 feet of of water. Her hurricane roof falling in from the immense weight thereon, made prisoners of the cabin passengers, thereby preventing their escape. Mr. Montihutcher, the passenger mentioned, states that at the time named eight or ten passengers were sitting about the stove when they felt the shock. He then ran out of the door of the cabin and was about to return when the cabin roof caved in dashing barrels, wagons, plows and other articles into the cabin where everybody had rushed who could get out of their state rooms.

I finally managed to reach the hurricane deck, and then saw no earthly chance for escape, as the roof was by this time crowded, and every one was seeking for something on which to float. The boat was by this time under the water, nothing remaining out but the hurricane roof and the pilot house. The wreck was still floating down the river, and we did not know what moment she would sink. Women were shouting for their husbands and children, and children for their parents. Just as we thought all hopes were gone we saw the lights of a boat coming up the river, and every one that could shouted for assistance.

In about fifteen minutes the friendly boat, which proved to be the Seminole, came alongside, and all that were able got on board. The hurricane roof was cut through, and it was found that Mrs. Roe, the captain's wife, was wedged in among a lot of barrels, boxes, etc. She was brought into the cabin of the Seminole, and after great exertions showed signs of life, and is now doing well. In extricating Mrs. Roe an axe had to be used to cut through the hurricane roof. She was struck with the axe but not seriously wounded. The dead were then brought in. The scene beggars description. There were about twenty-five killed, but I cannot tell how many were wounded. Mr. Taylor of St. Louis, who was rooming with me, is among the dead. He had retired about five minutes before the accident happened. The body was recovered from the state-room. $1200 in gold was found on him.

A gentleman, with his daughter and son-in-law, the last two just married, are among the dead. They intended to get off about one mile below the wreck. The Nick Wall lies aground about four miles below Worthon's Point where she struck. The number of lives lost by this accident cannot be ascertained; sixty or more deck passengers went on board at this place; several of these, in the terror of the scene, leaped overboard and were drowned. Many were taken out of the water by life boats. The disaster is the most appalling that has occurred since the explosion of the Sultana in 1865.

Capt. Montgomery, of the Seminole, not only exhibited coolness and skill, but his kindness was unbounded. The steamer Paragon passed the wreck of the Nick Wall about two hours after she was wrecked. Those passengers who were going down the river were taken aboard.

TERRIBLE CALAMITY IN RICHMOND. On Sunday last, at about 2.30 A. M., in Richmond, Va., fire was discovered in the block containing the Spottswood House, the leading hotel in the city, and nearly the whole building was destroyed by fire, and it is believed a dozen persons perished in the flames. A dispatch states that the fire took on the lower floor of the hotel. An effort was made to wake up the guests, and the scene became indescribable. Men were rushing about trying to save baggage, and women nearly naked and barefoot were fleeing into the snow covered streets. The steam engines were promptly on hand but the water being frozen it was some time before water could be thrown upon the building. In twenty minutes the flames spread to such an extent that escape by the staircase was cut off.

The guests then commenced leaping from the windows. P. P. Clark of Philadelphia, steward of the hotel, leaped from the third story, receiving fatal injuries. The most fearful scene of the disaster was the appearance of Mrs. Emily Kennearty of Baltimore, housekeeper, at the window of the fifth story, with one or two other ladies, screaming for help. The fire company's ladders were put up, but failed by two stories to reach the windows, and while the firemen were endeavoring to lengthen the ladders, the crying women disappeared in the thick smoke and were lost; the room lighting up a moment after with the flames.

The weather was so intensely cold that the telegraph wires in front of the burning building were covered with ice and the engines were encased in ice an inch thick. Among the remarkable escapes was that of Shafter, attached to the office of the State Printer, who was in the fourth story, and escaped by dropping from window to window until he reached the ground.

The hotel was valued at $140,000; insured in Northern companies for $60,00. All the goods ready for delivery in the cellar of the Southern Express Co., was also destroyed. The Company's money and safes are buried in the ruins.

One incident of the fire was that of a man who appeared at one of the upper windows paralyzed by fear, who sat tearing paper into small pieces and throwing them out of the window till he fell back into the flames. There were many very narrow escapes. The hotel register was found to-night and there are only six strangers not accounted for. The names of thirteen persons are given who are missing and who are supposed to have perished in the flames. The guests lost all their clothes and the ladies had to walk barefoot to places of shelter. Several business houses were destroyed. Total loss estimated at $380,000; insured in Northern offices.

MRS. HOSWELL'S STATEMENT. Mrs. Jane L. Hoswell publishes in the Hallowell *Gazette* a statement under oath of the testimony which she would have given at the trial of her husband for the murder of Laflin had she been permitted to do so. She details her life since she was married to Hoswell, which, according to her story, was a scene of miserable strife and wretched jealousy; the separation in Augusta, and partial reconciliation, &c. She states that Laflin came to her door a few minutes past nine on that fatal evening, and rapped at the door. She was just retiring, but thinking it might be Hoswell, threw on her wrapper and went to the door. Laflin said he came to show her a new carpet. She replied that she "was just going to bed, but would look at it." He stepped in and she looked at the carpet. Laflin remarking that he must put it down that evening. She adds: "I then opened the door and he went to step out, when Hoswell sprung upon him from the outside of the door, with a knife in his hand, striking him somewhere, but I don't know where; I screamed 'Oh,' and started to go into the sitting-room. Hoswell instantly caught me by the hair, and struck me on the cheek with the knife. I was standing, then, between the bed and the table. I tried to get the knife away from him, and got my hand cut. He then cut me four times on the head. I broke his hold from my hair and he caught me by the wrapper; I threw it off and ran into the other room, fastened the door and screamed 'murder!' three times. I don't know where Laflin went." She asserts her fidelity to Hoswell, and Mr. Laflin's propriety of conduct.

☞We mentioned last week the alleged case of murder on board the Portland brig Helen O. Phinney in the harbor of Montevideo in August last. Leach the steward and Wood the second mate were brought before the U. S. Commissioner in New York on Tuesday 20th inst. The testimony for the prosecution was substantially the same as the narrative we have published. The testimony for the defense was to the effect that the steward was in charge of the vessel at the time of the shooting and brought out his revolver to quell the fight between the first and second mates and "Jack," and shouted out for the persons fighting not to use knives; that the first and second mates then left "Jack, but "Jack" drew his knife and made two lunges at the first mate, who was about five feet from him, the steward shooting him when he made the second lunge.

Items of Maine News.

The Brunswick *Telegraph* says that in clearing up a pine timber lot in Topsham, an old grave yard was discovered in which the latest date on the gravestones was 1771. Pines stood around and close to the grave measuring from two to three feet in circumference.

The *Journal* says that Rev. Dr. Palfrey of Belfast, has notified his parishoners of his withdrawal from the pulpit of the Unitarian church consequent upon ill health. He will continue to preach until April, if his health permits. Dr. Palfrey has been pastor of the church for twenty-three years.

The engine house of the St. Croix & Penobscot Railroad Company, a mile above Calais, containing three locomotives, was burned on Friday afternoon. Two of the engines were somewhat injured. The fire took in the oil room, but the cause is unknown. The flames were prevented from spreading by the use of the apparatus in the machine shop. The property was insured for $3,000. Only one engine was insured; for $3,000.

The trial of Hoswell cost the county of Kennebec $2680.94, and the State $700—the State expenses were $500 allowed to the prisoner's counsel and $200 extra to the County Attorney.

A suit was recently tried at Portland, in which the plaintiff was a female clairvoyant, who claimed $125 for services as a physician. In cross-examination by the court, she testified that she had prescribed as clairvoyant for nine years; that she, although blind, could *see through* any living person, discover diseases, and use medicines intelligently. After an absence of three hours the jury returned into court with a verdict for $5.

George Tebbits of Fairfield, who is over 83 years old, works every day, in the field in summer, and in the woods in winter, and has never been sick enough to have a doctor.

We learn from the Bangor *Whig* that Daniel McDonald, a native of Nova Scotia, while at work in the woods in the town of Prentiss, for Mr. Ellenwood, was fatally injured by the falling of a tree which had been loodged, striking him on the back of the head. He lived but a few hours after the accident.

The *Press* says that Alden B. Dunton, a convict in the Cumberland County Jail, has been pardoned by the Governor. Dunton was tried at the Superior Court, in January 1869, and convicted on four indictments for liquor-selling.

The contract for building the stone work of the East River bridge at New York has been awarded to Messrs. Bodwell & Webster of Vinalhaven, and Messrs. Wescott & Sons of Portland. The contract embraces 500,000 feet of stone work. This stone, which is granite, is obtained from Buck's Harbor and Fox Island.

The celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Belfast took place Wednesday evening at Hayford's Hall before a large audience. Introductory remarks were made by Ex-Gov. Crosby, followed by a centennial address by Hon. Joseph Williamson, and other exercises.

The *Advocate* says a fire broke out in the store of J. P. Churchill, Esq., at one o'clock Saturday night, which was destroyed with all its contents, as also the Carrabasset House on the lot adjoining. The store was occupied by Mr. Churchill as a variety store, Mr. George A. Smith, clothing store, post office, and S. J. Walton, Esq., law office. The hotel was owned by W. & W. S. Jacobs, most of the contents of which were saved, as we learn. No insurance on the hotel or store.

Mr. Geo. Fish of South Dover, almost 78 years old, both of whose hips are out of joint so that he can only get about on crutch, has collected at farm houses in the surrounding country and brought into Bangor with one horse, the past season, 18,000 dozen eggs, which he sold to Mr. James Woodbury for $3,927. This is a noteworthy instance of energy and industry.

Capt. R. Cleaves of Kennebunk, has taken the contract for removing the cargo of the English steamer Clotilde ashore on Wells Beach, at a salvage of 25 per cent. of the value of all saved and and 33½ per cent. of the vessel, if she is got off all right. The vessel and cargo to be delivered at Portland. The cargo is carried ashore, conveyed over the hillocks of sand, thence to Wells river, where schooners load it for Portland. Capt. Cleaves saved 45 tons of the cargo during the first day's operations.

Norridgewock, in town meeting, has voted to release the conditions of its subscription to the Somerset railroad so that the directors, if they see fit, may mortgage the road to secure its completion, by a vote of 107 to 12.

The *Reporter* says that in Skowhegan on Wednesday, potatoes brought 75 cents; or about the price of wheat in the wheat country. The average yield of wheat will not reach 15 bushels per acre while 100 bushels of potatoes would be considered a light crop.

The barn of Simon M. Blake, in Biddelord, with twenty tons of hay, four carriages, a horse and a heifer, and a large quantity of farm produce, was consumed by fire Wednesday evening. Loss about $2000; insured for $600. The barn is supposed to have been set on fire.

Bowman's block, on Kenduskeag bridge, Bangor, was damaged by fire Saturday morning, to the amount of about three thousand dollars, and the stocks of several confectionery stores were entirely destroyed. The Mercantile Library and Marston's photograph rooms in the same building were considerably damaged.

Mr. Oliver Smith of Kennebunkport, while helping reef the mainsail of schooner Frank, of Kennebunk on the afternoon of the 21st, near the Isle of Shoals, was knocked overboard by the boom. The wind being heavy and the mainsail down, the schooner could not be brought too in season to save him. Mr. Smith was 31 years of age, unmarried and a temperate and worthy man.

The Machias *Republican* says Mrs. Clara H. Nash of Columbia Falls, has been appointed as Justice of the peace and quorum. Mrs. Nash has been studying law for some time, and report says she is intending to practice in connection with her husband, F. C. Nash, Esq., of that place.

On Tuesday afternoon, 20th inst., the dwelling-house of Mr. W. R. Wright in Lewiston was destroyed by fire in the absence of the family. Those present succeeded in saving a horse from his stable, and some articles of furniture, but the fire was so far advanced that but little could be done, and the whole establishment was destroyed. The buildings consisted of a house and stable, comparatively new, and in good condition. The loss will be at least $3000, on which is an insurance of $1900.

The *Whig* says a man residing in Nova Scotia took a horse to St. John, N. B., for sale. He was offered $150 in gold in that city, but thought he could sell for a much larger price in Maine; so he brought the animal to Bangor—paying $27 in gold for custom duties when he took him over the line. He stopped in Bangor three weeks, paying board for himself and hor

Congressional Summary.

Forty-first Congress---Third Session.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21.

SENATE. Mr. Sumner, by the unanimous consent of the Senate, made a personal statement in answer to an article in the Washington *Daily Patriot* this morning, headed, "Efforts to bring about a reconciliation between the President and Sumner." Upon his own request the article was read by the Secretary, setting forth that an effort within the last ten days to bring about a reconciliation between the President and Mr. Sumner had failed, that the President had complained that Sumner had attacked him in the Executive Senate, and spoken bitterly of him in the street cars and other public conveyances, and had grossly abused him in Boston and at the West; that the President had declared that if he were not President of the United States he would hold Sumner personally responsible for his language; and that one of the staff officers of the President was reported to have gone so far as to declare that, if he were not officially connected with the Executive, he would subject Mr. Sumner to personal violence.

Mr. Sumner denied the charges in detail, asserting that he had never spoken disrespectfully of the President in the Executive Session or elsewhere, but that in the exercise of his rights as Senator he had criticised the acts and words of the Executive. What he had said was addressed to the Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury, and he desired them to repeat to the President what that was.

The Senate then proceeded with the regular order of business.

Mr. Edmunds introduced a bill which was referred to the Pension Committee, increasing the pensions of disabled soldiers and sailors and their widows and children 25 per cent. from the 1st of next March.

Mr. Corbett introduced a bill to fix the salaries of the heads of executive departments and the Judges of United States courts, as follows: Heads of departments, $12,000 each; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, $10,000; Circuit judges, $7500; District judges, judges of the Court of Claims and judges of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, $6000 each.

The resolution investigating the Dominican affair came up at 1 o'clock as the regular order.

Mr. Bayard delivered a lengthy argument to show that the proposition for a commission was unconstitutional; after which Mr. Sumner addressed the Senate in a long speech, in which he reviewed the whole subject of the proposed annexation of San Domingo, and severely criticised the administration for its connection therewith. He said the resolution before the Senate committed Congress to a dance of blood, and was a new step in the measure of violence in which several steps have been taken already. Instead of a measure simply of inquiry the resolution actually created these diplomatic officers, and its real object was to commit Congress in advance in favor of annexation by a prearranged report by the commission, having the color of diplomatic authority. Looking to that end the President could now appoint an agent to visit San Domingo without the necessity of any resolution. He said the information which had reached him from that Island since the rejection of the treaty confirmed him in his belief that its negotiation had been consumated in violence, and so far it had been maintained had been fought with violence ever since, to the infinate discredit of the United States. He used strong language, but only such as the occasion required as a Senator and a patriot. He could not see his country suffer in its good name without an earnest effort to save it. Entering into the history of the Dominican negotiation Mr. Sumner said it had its origin with a firm of three political jockeys, Baez, Fabens and Ozenu, who seduced into their firm a young officer of the United States army entitling himself an aide-de-camp to U. S. Grant, President of the United States of America, and his special agent to the Dominican republic, and they together had gotten a protocol in which the young officer proceeded to make certain promises on behalf of this country.

If this so called aid-de-camp had acted upon any title or instructions in taking this step the fact was conceded and no inquiry thus far has been able to penetrate it. Such an office as aid-de-camp to the President of the United States was unknown in our governmental history, and probably no correspondingly similar designation has ever been assumed in the diplomatic history of any government; but this young officer, in attempting to represent the U. S. of America, had signed a treaty by which the President of the United States had pledged the use of his influence among members of Congress to make the annexation measure popular, and all the Senate knew how faithfully the President had carried out that pledge, not only using but exceeding this influence in favor of the annexation scheme. Mr. Sumner went on to show that at the time and since, Baez, with whom it had been made, had been maintained in power by the presence of our ships of war in Haytien waters. In other words Baez was sustained by the U. S. that he might destroy and sell his country. He [Sumner] would challenge the Senator from Ind. [Morton] to deny that fact or to doubt it by a single utterance. We were now treating Baez as a puppet in order to obtain possession of that territory, precisely as England treated Mosquito chief. Documents in the Naval Department prove all this, and it was further substantiated by the testimony of naval officers who had returned from there.

Mr. Morton here remarked that the best means of answering the broad statement made by Mr. Sumner was indicated by the resolution as an actual investigation by a commission. He wished to submit a question to the Senator whether all parties in San Domingo, both the adherents of Baez and Cabral were for annexation? If that was so then all that Mr. Sumner had said was immaterial and frivolous, and its only effect was, as intended, to obscure the subject in the public mind.

Mr. Sumner, in resenting the charge of frivolity in its application to his remarks, asked, was it frivolous for him to protest when he saw the mighty power of the republic degraded to an act of oppression? His answer to the Senator's question, as to the favorable disposition of the people of San Domingo to annexation, was exactly to the contrary, for the information furnished him, and which was only four days old, was to the effect that the people were much divided, while to some extent the proposition was received favorably along the sea shore. The people of the interior were averse to it. Besides the political jockey there, of whom he had spoken, there was another chieftain named Cabral, and who, as he [Sumner] was informed, was the real representative of the people of that country. Cabral some time ago was in favor of the sale of the Bay of Samana to the United States, but according to his [Sumner's] information he never was in favor of the annexation of that island to the United states, his policy being to bring the two Governments of Hayti and San Domingo once more together. In this connection Mr. Sumner stated that he was informed that Baez was now waiting to receive from the United States money for his sale of the country, in expectation of being able to slip off to Europe, there to enjoy the proceeds. Referring to the indignation with which the rumor had been received that Bismark would take Louis Napoleon from his prison and treat with him a peace as a pretext for overriding the young republic of France, Mr. Sumner argued that exactly the same policy was about to be resorted to by the United States in its treatment of the republic of San Domingo. As one illustration of this policy, tending to show what it had lost the Government during the last year, he read from a published San Domingo letter of Dec. 6th, mentioning the presence at adjacent points of the Swatara, Yantic and Nantasket, United States war ships. He said that under cover of this naval force the neighboring republic of Hryti, the only colored Government now in existence, had been dictated to. An American Commodore had presumed to threaten the Republican Government of Hayti that if they undertook in any way to interfere with the Dominican Government he would blow down their town about their ears. This American commodore, in the spirit of Tittlebat Titmouse, who was careful never to fight with a boy of his size, had undertaken to insult a sister republic. If this was on his own motion and without instructions from Washington he ought to have been removed at once. Rather than to carry out such instructions he ought to have thrown his sword into the sea. Senators might murmur at him [Sumner] but he would remind them that there was a rule of morals and honor that was above all other rules. No soldier and no naval officer should ever consent to do an act of dishonor and wrong. This was the principle upon which our father insisted in the Revolution, and their descendants had not failed to glorify those British officers who refused to serve in a bad cause. Enlarging upon this point of alleged interference as designed to interdict Hayti from the collection of a debt, owing in part by the Dominican Government, Mr. Sumner proceeded to show the extent to which the latter Government was liable for that debt. Noticing Senator Morton taking notes, with the likely purpose of answering his remarks under this head, he supposed that an attempt at justification would be made upon the mistaken hypothesis that under the law of nations the U. S. could rightfully exercise jurisdiction over territory which was the subject of negotiation. To refute this he quoted from various authorities upon international law, showing that the treaty could be of no effect until ratified, and every attempt at jurisdiction in Dominican waters was usurpation. In his opinion, every such trespass was an act of war, made by the executive without the consent of Congress. This outrage on a sister republic was aggravated by an issue which the President of the U. S. had made in his annual message, with the President of the Republic of Hayti. This issue was apparent upon the simple statement of the official utterance of each of the Presidents upon the same question. President Grant in his annual message has asserted that the rejection of the Dominican treaty on the part of the Senate was an act of folly, while the language of the Haytien president was that the anxiety caused in Hayti by the annexation project had been dissipated before the good sense and wisdom of the Senate at Washington. The former speaking with the voice of 40,000,000 people had called its rejection an act of folly, while the latter, representing only 800,000 people, and they all black, had asserted a very opposite opinion. Not content with that the President of the United States in his message acting in the spirit of his commodore, has nine times menaced the independence of republican San Domingo. The first of these was his proposition for the acquisition of the Island. The next was his representation that it was desirable because of its geographical position, and so on to the end. These conititute nine distinct menaces against that republic.—Senator Morton may answer that this was accidental, but he (Mr. Sumner) would remind that Senator that an accident could not be repeated nine times without a purpose.—He would say here too that the President could not afford to throw out any menaces in the city of Washington or oppress weak knees here. That savored too strongly of the policy of Pierce, Buchanan and Andrew Johnson in other days. The President had attempted to change the committees of Congress, and this session we are called upon to witness a similar endeavor. The President, not satisfied with the Committee on Foreign Relations as constituted for years, wished to change it. He asked first for the removal of the chairman, Sumner. Somebody told him that would not be convenient. (Laughter.) Then he asked for the removal of the Senator from Missouri (Schurz,) and was told that it could not be done without affecting the German vote. (General merriment.) He then called for the removal of the Senator from New Hampshire (Patterson,) who unhappily had no Germans in the State, but it was finally settled that it could not be done. Mr. Sumner said he alluded to these things with reluctance and because a vote could not be reached on the question without passing them in review. He called upon the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Morton) to the White House and by his advice save the President from the disastrous policy he was pursuing. Formally addressing the Vice President, Mr. Sumner continued with much emphasis as follows: Sir, I call upon you, who are next to the Chief Magistrate in place and honor, to call at once upon the President, to repair immediately to the executive mansion and tell him by authority you can justly command, not to follow the example of Franklin Pierce, of James Buchanan and Andrew Johnson. Tell him not to oppress a weak and humble people; tell him not to exercise the war power without the authority of Congress; tell him not to forget there is a grandeur in justice and in peace beyond anything in war."

At the close of Mr. Sumner's speech the Senate took a recess until evening.

At the evening session Mr. Morton took the floor and made a vigorous reply to the speech of Mr. Sumner. He defended the action of the President in the matter from first to last, and then took up various points of Mr. Sumnor's speech, which he reviewed in his usually forcible and earnest style.

Mr. Nye followed, affecting to lament that a member whom he honored as he does Mr. Sumner should be led to accuse all his friends of crime because they did not think as he did.

Then Mr. Chandler took the floor and made a most unparliamentary attack on Mr. Sumner, accusing him of a desire for the presidency, which led him to imagine he could split the Republican party and uniting half of it with the Democracy accomplish his design. He held up to Mr. Sumner the example of Messrs. Seward, Chase and Johnson.

Mr. Sumner's reply was great. He said he was compelled to make a statement which he had hoped never to make, and then gave an account of an interview between the President and himself. He said the President four times addressed him as chairman of the judiciary committee, and spoke of the new treaty he had negotiated, whereupon Mr. Sumner changed the subject and went to talking about Mr. Ashley, meantime meditating how to meet the matter; and when the President again introduced the subject, he informed him in deliberately chosen words that he was an admisistration man, and whatever the President might do should receive careful and considerate attention, and that was all. On his political position he said when the Democratic party followed him it would be regenerated and Republican.

He appealed to the Vice President, saying, "I call upon you to call at once upon the President, to repair immediately to the Executive mansion, and tell him by the authority you can justly command not to follow the example of Franklin Pierce, of James Buchanan and Andrew Johnson. Tell him not to oppress a weak and humble people; tell him not to exercise the war power without the authority of Congress; tell him not to forget there is a grandeur in justice and in peace beyond anything in war."

He further argued against annexation and in conclusion protested against the adoption of this resolution, as he had done in the beginning of his speech, as another stage in the drama of blood. He said he protested against it in the name of justice outraged by violence; in the name of humanity, insulted; in the name of the weak and trodden down; in the name of peace, imperilled, and in the name of the African race, whose first effort at independence had been rudely assailed.

Afterward a recess was taken and on reassembling the debate went on. Roscoe Conkling reviewed Mr. Sumner's course and policy.

Mr Schurz's motion to adjourn at one o'clock was lost, 11 to 33. Mr. Buckingham's motion to refer the resolution to the Committee on Foreign Relations was rejected 13 to 31. An amendment by Mr. Schurz enlarging the investigation so as to include other points than San Domingo was reported. Mr. Bayard's amendment to require the appointment of commissioner by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate was lost, 10 to 33.

A motion to adjourn was voted down at three o'clock by an overwhelming viva yoce vote, the friends of the resolution expressing their determination to sit out all opposition and several Senators being asleep on lounges in the Senate.

The debate thereafter was mainly of an interlocutory character but was marked at times with an acrimonious spirit which relieved the monotony of the late sessions.

In the course of the debate Mr. Sumner and Mr. Edmonds became involved in a personal controversy, which resulted with Mr. Sumner's admission that when at the last session he became satisfied he could not support the treaty he ought to have communicated that fact to the President, and he regretted not having done that. This, he said, was the extent of his offending and it did not justify the denunciations heaped upon him during the debate. He thought Mr. Edmunds should do him a little more justice. Mr. Edmunds reported that if full justice was done the Senator from Mass., his language to-day in regard to the President would have received much more severe censure than it had.

Mr. Carpenter spoke in defence of the President, and at 6 o'clock the resolution was passed, 31 to 9. The vote was as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Abbott, Ames, Brownlow, Carpenter, Chandler, Cole Conkling, Corbett, Cragin, Edmunds, Flanagin, Hamilton of Texas, Hamlin, Howe, Howell, Morton, Nye, Osborn, Pomeroy, Pool, Ramsey, Revels, Ross, Sawyer, Scott, Sherman, Stewart, Thayer, Warner, Willey and Williams—31.

Nays—Messrs. Casserly, McCreery, Morrill of Vermont, Patterson, Schurz, Stockton, Sumner, Thurman, and Tipton—9.

The Senate at 6:45 A. M., adjourned.

HOUSE. The session was occupied with the Amnesty question, and after considerable discussion its further consideration was postponed to Jan. 11th.

THURSDAY, Dec. 22.

No business of importance was done in Senate, except the confirmation of Gen. Schenck as minister to England.

The Senate then adjourned to Jan. 4th.

House meet for general debate on the President's Message.

The bill regulating the rates of duty on sugar was signed by the Speaker and sent to the President for his signature.

The amnesty question was further dicussed by Messrs Booker of Virginia and Barry in favor of and by Mr. Potter of Virginia against the general removal of disabilities; after which the House adjourned until Wednesday, Jan. 4th.

MOWING MACHINES. The MEADOW KING Mower, differs widely from any other, being propelled on 30-inch drive wheels. A tapering sleeve or arm passes from the axle to front, through which the crank shaft revolves, the main shoe grasping around the outside, connecting with a pitman twelve inches long, which is *always* in line with the knife, thus making the most flexible cutter bar ever before introduced, running equally well in *any position*, from horizontal to perpendicular. Its construction is such, that it *cannot* be cramped *under any circumstances*. For ease of management, lightness of draft, strength and durability, it cannot be surpassed. Every one interested in mowers should examine the "Meadow King."

Foreign News.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

The Food in Paris.

London, Dec. 21. The attaches of the Foreign Legations, who have arrived from Paris, confirm the reports that the supplies of food in the city will last two months longer.

The Neutrality of Luxembourg.

Berlin, Dec. 21. The *Cross Journal* of today says with regard to the neutrality of Luxembourg that diplomatic negotiations are impossible in time of war. The German armies would thereby be compromised, while the abrogation of treaties secures their safety. The Prussian Government is ready to submit its claims to arbitration without affecting the position of Luxembourg as an independent State.

Trouble in Spain.

Madrid, Dec. 20. In the Cortes to-day, a motion providing for the dissolution of that body was carried by a vote of 126 against 4, amid great excitement. The Opposition immediately left the chamber. During the debate Senor Robledo declared that he and his party did not wish for a *coup d' etat*, but were determined to save the King or perish with him.

Figueros followed in support of the motion for dissolution, but admitted that the country would not settle into tranquility, even though Aosta was now on the throne, unless the finances were suitably discussed. The motion was supported by the Government members thereof, expressing the sentiment that to save the country all measures were allowable.

The Cortes are still engaged in violent and fruitless discussions between the Republicans and the so-called Sardinian factions, the latter being very bitter in their attacks on the new King.

Recent Military Operations around Paris.

Advices from Paris on the night of the 21st inst. bring an official report of the military operations, which says: The operations were resumed to-day and only ceased at nightfall. On the right Generals Malro and Blaise occupied Neuilly-Sur-Marne, Villa Eurard and Maison Blanche, all to the east of Paris. The fire of the enemy was silenced at all points. It also stated that after a short combat, in which Gen. Fave wounded, the troops from St. Denis, under Admiral La Rouciere, carried Bouget, to the north of Paris, but were unable to hold the place and retreated, having captured 100 prisoners.

The forces of Gen. Ducrot were also engaged south of the city in a violent artillery action against Mont Ablon and Blanc Mesuil, and at night Ducrot occupied Groslay and Drougy. Gen. Noel made a feint on the side of Mont Valerian, west of Paris, aginst Montretout, and the chief battalion occupied the island of Chiard in the Seine. The mobilized National Guard fought with the troops in these engagements and displayed great ardor. The garrison of St. Denis and Marines lost considerable in attacking Bourget, but the losses of the other troops were not heavy.

Gen. Trochu remains outside the city with the army.

Lively Scenes on the Loire.

Blois, Dec. 19. [Special to New York *Herald.*] The city is crowded with troops of all arms. There are innumerable teams for supply trains and ambulance wagons, and thousands of stragglers are jumbled together in an inextricable mass.

The skirmishing line is extended on the right to Solbris, on the south side of the Loire, and on the left, from the neighborhood of Meung to Marchenoir. On Wednesday and Thursday fighting was lively along the whole line, especially to the left of Marchenoir.

At Marchenoir the French placed pieces on the hights with the expectation of annoying the coming foe, but they could not prevent their passage nor inflict any material damage. Their only effect was to draw a fire which led to the explosion of 100 shells piled against a house filled with wounded men, women and children.

Spain.

Madrid, Dec. 22. New Year's Day has been fixed for the entry into Madrid of Aosta. In the meantime he will remain at the Royal Palace at Oranjuez. Don Carlos has issued a protest against the elevation of an Italian to the throne, and in support of his own claims thereto, which is supplemented by five letters from Charles Albert and Victor Emanuel.

The Cortes is still engaged in the discussion of the motion for a dissolution.

War Facts and Rumors.

London, Dec. 22d. Troops are pouring into Cherbourg for the defence of that port. At Havre an immediate attack is expected. The Germans are approaching the place in increased force.

A Berlin dispatch threatens that unless Paris soon surrenders a regular attack will begin.

The English ship Suasgina bound to Valparaiso, was run into and badly damaged by the French transport L'Harmonie, who mistook her for a Prussian vessel. The repairs of the Suasgina will be made by the French government.

Berlin, Dec. 21. A decree has been issued from the war office, transferring the charge of guarding French prisoners to the battalion doing garrison duty in Germany, and relieving the landwehr, who are to be sent into France to garrison places occupied by the Germans. The besiegers of Belfort have received reinforcements of artillery from Prussia.

The Prussian Lines Cut.

London, Dec. 22. Dispatches from Bordeaux state that Gen. Bourbaki, with 150,000 men, successfully formed a junction with Gen. Chauzy on Tuesday night, in the rear of the German army, who had evacuated Tours. The French captured 2,000 prisoners and a vast amount of ammunition. Prince Frederick Charles' lines were severed.

Tours Bombarded, Captured and Evacuated by the Prussians.

Bordeaux, Dec. 21.—Evening. There was a severe engagement near Tours yesterday. The French, 6,000 strong, fought against 10,000 Prussian with 24 cannon for seven hours. The French finally retreated. The Prussians followed and commenced to bombard Tours, when the Mayor went to the headquarters of the Prussian General and surrendered the town, as there were no troops to defend it; but this evening the Government here announced that the Prussians evacuated Tours to-day, retreating toward Chateau Renault. Gen. Bremer, near Nuits, checked the Prussians. He advises the Government that he can keep the enemy from advancing.

Among the prisoners recently captured are many who state that they have not been a fortnight in France.

Various Reports.

Bordeaux, Dec. 21. A general sortie was made from Paris yesterday. Gen. Vinoy took La Maison Blanche, beyond Gagny, six miles east from Paris, and Gen. Ducrot fought a battle near Bromay.

Bordeaux, Dec. 21.—Midnight. A balloon has landed at Beaufort, in the Department of Marne et Loire, bringing dispatches for Gambetta. The aeronaut, who left Paris at 2 o'clock this afternoon, reports that Paris was in excellent condition.

Military operations were resumed yesterday, and a battle was fought favorable to French arms. Our artillery was especially successful.

A Berlin dispatch says the Germans under General Gottz have surprised the French in the Department of Haute Mame, and driven them from their position with a heavy loss. Many prisoners and a large quantity of arms and baggage were taken.

A dispatch from Versailles states that on Tuesday the fire from the fortifications of Paris was both active and effective. During the cannonade a sortie was made by the French against the Prussian guard and the 12th corps of Saxons, the fight lasted several hours. The German loss was small.

A London dispatch says the French claim to have severed Frederick Charles' communications and to have captured 2,000 prisoners as the Germans were leaving Tours. They also report that the army of the Loire has made a successful union and is now 300,000 strong and ready for the offensive,

The Sortie on Wednesday.

Bordeaux, 23. During the great sortie made from Paris on Wednesday, Gen. Ducrot took many hundred prisoners. The general situation is more encouarging for the Freuch. The evacuation of Tours and the retreat of other Prussian forces toward Orleans are said to be the result of a strategeical movement of Generals Chanzy and Bourbaki, Rouen has been almost entirely evacuated by the Prussians. Gen. Manteuffel has undoubtedly moved forces for the purpose of opposing the march of the French army of Gen. Faidherbe.

Gen. Faidherbe's Victory.

Bordeaux, 24. In an official dispatch telegraphed from Lille last night, Gen. Faidherbe announces to the Ministry of War that his army engaged the enemy at Pont Nozelle on that day. The battle lasted from 11 in the forenoon until 6 o'clock in the evening. For a greater portion of the time it was an artillery duel, which was finally terminated by a charge by the French infantry along the whole line. The enemy were driven back and the French troops remained masters of the field.

Rumored Defeat of Gen. Chauzy.

London, 23. An evening dispatch from Havre says that a rumor was prevalent there to-day that Gen. Chauzy has been defeated by the combined armies of the Duke of Mecklenburg and Prince Frederick Charles, and is now in full retreat.

It is again rumored that Ducrot left Paris in a balloon on the 15th inst., to take command of an army corps in the field.

Gen. Faidherbe Surrounded.

London, 23. A dispatch from Brussels says Gen. Faidherbe is being surrounded by the Germans and that the Prussians have occupied Soissons and Sissone. It is said the Commune of Lyons sent orders to the French government insisting upon fewer decrees and proclamations and more boldness and energy.

A Dispatch from King William.

Berlin, 23. Queen Augusta has just made public the following from King William, dated at Versailles:—The French made a sortie in the direction of Stanies and Bonget, prompted by the mistaken idea that the French Army of Relief was approaching. Many French prisoners were taken in the assault on the Saxon positions. The sortie was easily repulsed. The cold is intense.

A Grand Victory by Manteuffel.

Amiens, Dec. 24. A German victory is reported at Holla, southeast of this city, over the Army of the North, 60,000 strong. The Germans carried several villages by storm and took 1,000 prisoners.

The Battle at Nuits.

Bordeaux, Dec. 24. The official reports of the battle at Nuits, on the 18th inst., shows that Gen. Gremer was attacked by 24,000 Prussians with a heavy force of artillery. The French had only 10,000 men, who after fighting many hours, retreated a quarter of a mile from the town. The Germans lost more than 500 killed and wounded. Among them Duke William of Baden and several colonels. The peasants fought bravely. Reinforcements came up the next morning and the Germans retreated in such haste that the prisoners they had taken the day before escaped. The French loss was 1,200 killed and wounded.

An Insurrection in Lyons.

Lyons, Dec. 20.—via London, Dec. 24 The occupation of Nuits by the enemy caused a panic here. Meetings were held at which the orators made frantic appeals to the multitude. The toesin was sounded, the National and Mobile Guards mustered, and delegations assembled and a procession of women in mourning passed through the streets. The Red Republicans gathered in large numbers before the Hotel de Ville and clamored for vengeance. Gen. Armand, commander of the National Guard, refused them admission to the hall. He was assailed and his sword broken, and in self-de ence he discharged his revolver at his assailants. The mob then rushed upon and overpowered him, and after a mock trial he was condemned to death and shot a few moments after receiving his sentence. The troops remained passive during the disorders.

The Late Battles---Accounts from both Sides.

Brussels, 25. Gen. Faidherbe has fallen back across the valley. During the battle on the 23d Manteufiel stormed Beruncourt, Montigny, Daons, Teichencoun, Querrene, Nozellese, Bussy and Vecquemont, the French yielding only after a desperate resistance. The German losses were about 3000 and the French 5500 including prisoners.

Bordeaux, 25—General Faidherbe reports to the Minister of War: "The Prussians gave us battle on the 23d. We were well posted between Daons and Contay. Our troops fought admirably during the entire day. Villages were taken and retaken. At 5 P. M. our success was complete. We drove the enemy before us with the bayonet. During the night the Prussians entered some of the villages in the valley but they did not try to attack our positions." Other reports say that Gen. Faidherbe was successful on the right and left wings, and his army slept on the field of battle, but the result is indecisive. On the next day the enemy showing no disposition to renew the fight Gen. Faidherbe returned to Albert.

King William telegraphs to the Queen that Gen. Manteuffel won a victory on the 23d near Amiens, taking a thousand prisoners and commenced to pursue the French in the direction of Arras to-day.

From Paris.

London, 25—Balloon advices from Paris of the 22d say there had been no more fighting. The French loss in the sortie on the 21st is reported at about 800. The confidence of the inhabitants is undiminished.

Bordeaux, 25—An official dispatch from Le Mans, Dec. 24th announces that the Prussians have withdrawn from Hogeut Le Rotrou. Seventy-five thousand men passed through the town in the direction of Paris.

A French Naval Expedition.

London, 25—A fleet of transports are preparing to leave Brest with a considerable force for an unknown destination.

The Prussian Force.

The total effective force of the German armies now in France is set down in round numbers at 600,000, half of which is now before Haris. Ten thousand are on the sick list.

English Vessels Sunk by the Prussians.

London, Dec. 27. The sinking of six English ships in the Seine by the Prussians, for the purpose of obstructing navigation, has occasioned great indignation and excitement throughout England. The British Vice Consul at Rouen, has presented to the Prussian Commander, a formal protest against the act of spoliation committed upon British subjects.

Special to N. Y. *Herald*.

London, Dec. 26. There is intense excitement in this city consequent on the alarming intelligence that the Prussians have virtually committed an act of belligerency that in former days of English pluck would have been sufficient to provoke war. Six English trading vessels have been sunk in the Seine by the Prussians, for the avowed purpose of obstructing the navigation of the river. I can convey you no idea of the effect of this news on this city. Men read it on newspaper bulletins and then turned away with involuntary closed fists and indignation in their eye, that would be dangerous to the "Peace at any price man" if he should chance to come along it that moment. It is expected this will awaken a feeling throughout the country that will mark the turning point in promotion of English public opinion, when men will agree to sink their differences and avenge their insulted honor. The *Times* has published an extra, a most unusual course, and endeavors to calm the public sentiment by expressing the hope that the report is exaggerated and expresses a strong conviction that the Prussians would not commit so suicidal an act. The people will not listen to this and point to the dispatch with indignation.

The Standard and other conservative papers have a bitter war tone article calling upon the government either to resign or declare itself insulted and take the needed means for the correction of this outrage upon the British flag.

Bombardment of Paris Commenced.

Dresden, 27. A telegraphic despatch from the commanding General of the Saxon troops before Paris, announces that the bombardment of Fort Avon commenced to-day. This fortification is the most advanced of the French outworks east of Paris, and is six miles from the city.

AS A HEALTH-RENEWER

And health-promoting agent, "POLAND'S HUMOR DOCTOR" stands in the front rank of valuable medicines. Its specialty is to cleanse the vitiated blood, to remove all humors from the body, and to alleviate suffering by invigorating and strengthening the whole system. All who are troubled with humor of any sort are advised to try it.

An Established Remedy.—"Brown's Bronchial Troches" are widely known as an established remedy for *Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Hoarseness*, and other troubles of the *Throat and Lungs*. Their good reputation and extensive use has brought out imitations, represented to be the same, OBTAIN only *"Brown's Bronchial Troches."*

Sufferers from coughs, colds, bronchitis, croup, influenza or whooping cough, will find relief in *Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry*, which has now been in use for nearly half a century, and still maintains its long established reputation as the great remedy for all diseases of the throat, lungs and chest.

NATURE'S ASSISTANT is found in the *White Pine Compound*, as connected with all Pulmonary Complaints and Kidney troubles. It heals, strengthiens and removes the disease, and adds an increased vitality to the part affected.

Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer is the best preparation for the hair in the market, and always gives satisfaction. Do not be put off by unprincipled dealers with others on which they make more profit. 1m4

AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Androscoggin Agricultural and Horticultural Society will be held in the City Rooms in Lewiston, on Saturday, Jan. 7th, 1871, at 10 o'clock A. M., to elect a Board of Officers for the ensuing year, and to transact such other business as may come before said meeting. All interested are requested to be present. W. R. WRIGHT, Sec'y.

Lewiston, Dec. 12, 1870. 2

EAST KENNEBEC AG'L AND HORT'L SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of the East Kennebec Agricultural and Horticultural Society will be holden at Week's Mills on SATURDAY, Dec. 31st, at 10 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of choosing officers for the ensuing year. 1w3 H. B. WILLIAMS, Sec'y.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Members of the West Penobscot Agricultural Society are hereby notified that their Annual Meeting for the choice of officers will be held at the Hall on the Society's Grounds in Exeter, on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 4th, at 10 o'clock A. M.

1w3 T. P. BATCHELDER, Sec'y.

PENOBSCOT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Penobscot Agricultural Society will hold its Annual Meeting for the choice of officers, at the Court House in Bangor, the FIRST WEDNESDAY IN JANUARY, at 10 o'clock A. M.

D. M. DUNHAM, Sec.

Bangor, Dec. 15, 1870. 1w3

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Special Notices.

The Great Pictorial Annual.

Hostetter's United States Almanac for 1871, for distribution, *gratis*, throughout the United States, and all civilized countries of the Western Hemisphere, will be published about the first of January, and all who wish to understand the true philosophy of health should read and ponder the valuable suggestions it contains. In addition to an admirable medical treatise on the causes, prevention and cure of a great variety of diseases, it embraces a large amount of information interesting to the merchant, the mechanic, the miner, the farmer, the planter, and professional man; and the calculations have been made for such meridians and latitudes as are most suitable for a correct and comprehensive NATIONAL CALENDAR.

The nature, uses, and extraordinary sanitary effects of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, the staple tonic and alterative of more than half the Christian world, are fully set forth in its pages, which are also interspersed with pictorial illustrations, valuable recipes for the household and farm, humorous anecdotes, and other instructive and amusing reading matter, original and selected. Among the Annuals to appear with the opening of this year, this will be one of the most useful, and *may be had for the asking*. The proprietors, Messrs. Hostetter & Smith, on receipt of a two cent stamp, will forward a copy by mail to any person who cannot procure one in his neighborhood. The Bitters are sold in every city, town and village, and are extensively used throughout the entire civilized world. 1m29

CURED MY CATARRH,

"Hyatt's Inzasnuff Saved my Life."

Restored me to health."—says O. H. Crossman, 23 Cliff St., N. Y. Trial box, 25c; large box, 50c; for cure, $1, by mail. Send to Dr. E. F. HYATT, 245 Grand St., N. Y. 1w14

Married.

In this city, Dec. 21, Chas. B. Morton and Carrie F. Scruton.

In this city, 25th inst., by Rev. C. F. Penny, Wm. H. Henderson to Martha A. Richards, both of Hallowell.

In Dresden, Dec. 20, by Rev. D. M. True, Mr. Seth D. Houdlett, to Miss Sybil L. Houdlett; both of Dresden.

In Waldoboro', Dec. 18, by Reuben Orff, Esq., Mr. Redington Crammer, to Miss Julia A. Keen, both of Waldoboro'.

In West Waterville, Nov. 11, by Rev. S. Bowden, Mr. L. Hacket Bragg and Miss Sarah A. Grant, both of Sidney.

In Brooks, on Thanksgiving day, Nov. 24, Marsters Edwards to Abigail F. Edwards.

In North Vassalboro' by Rev. J. A. Varney, Albert N. Varney, son of officiating clergyman, to Alice L. Webber, both of V.

In Mt. Vernon, Christmas eve., by D. H. Thing, Esq., Lucius A. Moulton of Mt Vernon, to Maria Brown of Rome.

In Sidney the 23d inst., by Rev. W. P. Jackson, Cyrus G. Hallowell of Sidney, to Ella M. Shaw of this city.

In Industry, Dec. 19, by Rev. Henry Crockett, O. W. Allen of Industry, to Fanny M. Jewell of Farmingham, Mass.

In Portland, Dec. 24, by Rev. Dr. Shailer, Capt. Geo. H. Bennett to Lizzie M. Farnham, both of Rockport.

In Norway, Dec. 15, Edward J. Flood, of Oxford, to Villa J. Strickland, of Upton.

In Chelsea, Dec. 18, George E. Stickney, to Delia Welman, both of this city.

In Winthrop, Dec. 17, Andrew H. Parker, of Rockland, to Sarah S. Tarr, of Waldoboro.

In Houlton, Dec. 16, Ralph B. White, to Martha Cromwell, both of Hodgdon.

Died.

In Chelsea, 26th inst., Miss Esther Perkins, aged 25 years.

In Wilton, Dec. 22, Rashalia Gage, formerly of Readfield, aged 82 years and 6 months.

At Kent's Hill, Dec. 19, Helen Packard, aged 36 years, 5 months.

In Brunswick, Dec. 22, Thomas J. Sparrow, of Portland, aged 65 years, 10 months.

In Topsham, Dec. 18, Mrs. Adelia C. Moosley, aged 41 years

In Auburn, Dec. 16, Nancy, widow of the late Richard McManus, of Brunswick, aged 88 years.

In North Bridgton, Dec. 7, Amos Young, formerly of Portland, aged 42 years.

In Lewiston, Dec. 19, Nellie C. Whitcher, aged 14 years.

At Princeton, Colusa county, Cal. Nov. 23, James H. Calden, aged 32 years.

In Solon, Dec. 14, Lydia Sanford, aged 95 years, 10 months and 8 days.

DR. SCHENCK ADVISES CONSUMPTIVES TO GO TO FLORIDA IN WINTER.

HAVING for the last thirty-five years devoted my whole time and attention to the study of lung diseases and consumption, I feel that I understand fully the course that ought to be pursued to restore a tolerably bad case of diseased lungs to healthy soundness. The first and most important step is, for the patient to avoid taking cold; and the best of all places on this continent for this purpose, in winter, is Florida, well down in the State, where the temperature is regular, and not subject to such variations as in more northern latitudes. Palatka is a point I can recommend. A good hotel is kept there by Peterman. Last winter I saw several persons there whose lungs had been badly diseased, but who, under the healing influence of the climate and my medicines, were getting well. One hundred miles farther down the river is a point which I would prefer to Palatka, as the temperature is more even and the air dry and bracing. Mellonville and Enterprise are located there. I should give a decided preference to Mellonville; it is two miles from river or lake, and it seems almost impossible to take cold there. The tables in Florida might be better, and patients complain at times; but that is a good sign, as it indicates a return of appetite, and when this is the case, they generally thrive in flesh, and their lungs must heal. Jacksonville, Hibernia, Green Cove, and many other places in various parts of Florida can be safely recommended to consumptives in winter. My reasons for saying so are, that patients are less liable to take cold there than where there is a less even temperature; and it is not necessary to say, that, where a consumptive person exposes himself frequently to cold he is certain to die shortly: therefore my advice is, go well down into the State, out of the reach of prevailing east winds and fogs. Jacksonville, or almost any other of the localities I have named, will benefit those who are troubled with a torpid liver, a disordered stomach, deranged bowels, sore throat, or cough; but, for those whose lungs are diseased a more southern point is earnestly recommended.

For fifteen years prior to 1859, I was professionally in New York, Boston, Baltimore, and Philadelphia every week, where I saw and examined on an average five hundred patients a week. A practice so extensive, embracing every possible phase of lung disease, has enabled me to understand the disease fully; and hence my caution in regard to taking cold. A person may take vast quantities of "Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup, Seaweed Tonic, and Mandrake Pills," and yet die if he does not avoid taking cold.

In Florida, nearly everybody is using Schenck's Mandrake Pills; for the climate is more likely to produce bilious habits than more northern latitudes. It is a well-established fact, that natives of Florida rarely die of consumption, especially those of the southern part. On the other hand, in New England, one-third at least of the population die of this terrible disease. In the Middle States it does not prevail so largely; still there are many thousands of cases there. What is vast percentage of those who would be saved if consumptives were as easily alarmed in regard to taking fresh colds as they are about scarlet fever, small-pox, &c.! but they are not; they take what they term a little cold, which they are credulous enough to believe will wear off in a few days. They pay no attention to it; hence it lays the foundation for another and another still, until the lungs are diseased beyond all hope of cure.

My advice to persons whose lungs are affected, even slightly, is to buy in a stock of Schenck's Pulmonic Syr

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Poetry.

A GERMAN TRUST SONG.

Just as God leads me, I would go;
I would not ask to choose my way;
Content with what he will bestow,
Assured he will not let me stray,
So as he leads, my path I make,
And step by step I gladly take,
A child in him confiding,

Just as God leads I am content:
I rest me calmly in His hands;
That which He has decreed and sent—
That which His will for me commands,
I would that He should all fulfil,
That I should do His gracious will
In living or in dying.

Just as God leads, I all resign;
I trust me to my Father's will;
When reason's rays deceptive shine,
His council would I yet fulfil;
That which His love ordained as right,
Before He brought me to the light,
My all to Him resigning.

Just as God leads me, I abide
In faith, in hope, in suffering true;
His strength is ever by my side—
Can aught my hold on him undo?
I hold me firm in patience knowing
That God my life is still bestowing—
The best in kindness sending.

Just as God leads, I onward go,
Oft amid thorns and briars seen;
God does not yet his guidance show—
But in the end it shall be seen
How, by a loving Father's will,
Faithful and true he leads me still.

Our Story Teller.

LEFT IN CHARGE.

A STORY OF A FLOOD.

It was a wet, cold day in March; the rain came pattering against the cottage windows; the few remaining yellow leaves which had defied the winter storms fluttered down from the branches, and chased each other over the damp grass and muddy road. The little river Spathy rushed and roared amidst its many windings, as if it found its banks quite too narrow, and wished to leap over them; the white crests of foam sped one after another, hurrying down the river, and the wind whistled angrily as it strove in vain to keep them back; but they sprang up defiantly, and slipped through the gusts, which tried vainly to catch them, and only succeeded in breaking many of them into thousands of spray-atoms.

Widow Grey's house stood close to the river, and her little son George sat on the window-seat, watching the angry fight between the wind and the waves, and learning his Collect for Easter Day; but his thoughts sadly wandered, what with watching the loaming river, and thinking of what the master had explained to to the boys that week—that spring might be considered a type of Resurrection, and that as the green leaves should burst forth in their due season upon the trees which now looked so dead, so our bodies at the fitting time should rise to new and fresh glory. What a mystery it all seemed to the boy's mind! He was looking absently at the bare trees, when his mother came into the room with her bonnet and cloak on, and her umbrella in her hand.

"Why, mother, wherever are you going?" asked George.

"To the shop. It's Easter eve, you know, and the shops won't be open again till Wednesday; so you see, my lad, there's no help for it. I'll make up a good fire, and baby's asleep in her cradle; so you'll not have much to hinder your lessons. If baby wakes, you'll take her up; and be sure you don't open the door whilst I'm gone!"

"I'll do up the fire, mother, but I wish you'd let me go to shop for you. I'm sure you'll catch cold!"

"No, thank you, Georgie; you're a good lad for thinking of it, but I must do my shopping to-day myself. Law! but it *is* a wet day, not fit to turn a dog out. Good-bye, my boy; take good care of the baby, and give her tea if I'm not back in time; don't come out in the wet." So saying she shut the door; and George watched her going down the garden and crossing the bridge over the Spathy.

When she was out of sight the boy made up the fire, looked round the simply-furnished kitchen, and then seating himself on a low stool by the cradle, began his Collect again. The cradle was made out of an old box fastened on rockers, and had been his own handiwork in summer; so he looked at it with no small pride, and then still more proudly at the dimpled baby face, so cosily nestled amidst the pillows.

His lesson was soon finished, and he took a book which he had borrowed from the Sunday-school library, and became so much interested in it that he forgot even where he was, when suddenly his attention was aroused by a roaring sound in the distance; scarcely had he run to the window to see what was the matter when he saw the old bridge half down and the rest tottering and rocking; in another moment there was a second crash, and the rest of the stones were swept away; an instant later the impatient Spathy had leaped over its banks, and the water began flowing swiftly over the meadow below the house.

George had heard before of the river's overflowing, and that the low, one-storied cottages like his mother's were not considered very safe at such times; but no harm had so far happened to any of them, so he did not feel afraid; only a deep feeling of thankfulness came over him as he remembered how very lately his mother had crossed that bridge; how dreadful it would have been if she had been carried away with it! Then he began wondering how she could get back to them, and whether they would have to remain alone all night. As he thought this, it seemed to him that the baby moved; so he got up to see, but it was still sleeping placidly; and, after giving the fire a poke he returned to the window-seat.

What with watching, and thinking, and reading, more than an hour had passed since Mrs. Grey left the cottage, and it was growing dusk. George knew she must be on her way home, and as he reached the window, he gazed out eagerly towards the bridge. But what a sight met his eyes! The Spathy had already rushed triumphantly over the meadow, and was fast creeping up to the door. George's first thought was of flight; but when he ran to a back window to look out, he found that the river had broken through at another winding, and was rushing, foaming and roaring at both sides of the cottage.

The poor boy's heart failed him; and still would it have done so, had he known that the sudden rise in the river was caused, not by the rain, but by the bursting of a mill-reservoir farther up the stream. As it was, he felt that they were in great danger; and like a faithful guardian his first thought was not of himself, but of his baby sister—what was the safest place to put her in?

It has been said before that there was only one story to the cottage; and as there was no manner of creeping into the roof, or at least, if George had scrambled up, he could not have taken the baby; there seemed very little choice. At last, however, in his despair, the boy thought of two nooks of refuge. His father, who had only been dead a year, had been a fisherman, and like many men of that class, was fond of turning old boats to account; he had built the cottage in part out of old broken ships, and when it was finished, had contrived a cupboard out of an old fishing-boat fastened into the corner, and into which he had stuck shelves. George's idea was to hoist baby's cradle on the topmost shelf, tie the little girl into it, and trust to God to keep her safe there. He had always been taught that God helps those who help themselves, but that unless we do all we can for ourselves, we cannot expect to be helped; so he did not, as many boys would have done, sit down hopelessly, or even trust only to praying for safety, though all the time he was working he was calling upon God to protect them.

First he lifted the still sleeping child out of the cradle and put her on the window seat; then, with much difficulty, he pulled the box on to the shelf, put an old shawl of his mother's round it, and in such a way that it could be tied round the baby, and then lifting her in fastened her securely down. All this took far more time than the mere telling or reading. Before the baby was safe in her nook, the water had crept in under the door, and was even splashing up against the window. George felt there was no time to be lost. The only other high piece of furniture in the room was an old-fashioned eight-day clock; by the help of a ledge over the chimney-piece, and one of the rafters, the boy scrambled up here, held himself steady by the beam, and not only felt in greater safety than below, but was also close enough to his little sister to be able almost to touch the cradle; and it was no small comfort for him to feel this, as he knew she was certain to cry if she woke and found herself alone.

Time went on; the water came in faster and faster, and from his perch George could see the foaming, rushing river, springing angrily up at the little casement. Before his mind came the memory of the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and from his heart burst forth the prayer: "Lord, help us, we perish!" Surely God would hear them, or did he intend that they should glorify him by their deaths? Perhaps he did, thought the boy; and a strange feeling of awe filled his heart, and for a few minutes left scarcely any room for fear—so wonderfully had God answered the prayer for help. It was as if he had said: "Peace, be still," to the child's trembling heart, and had calmed its anxious beating. Oh, how the thoughts pressed and thronged his mind as the water grew higher and higher! His poor mother, how grieved and unhappy she would be if she came back and found her children both drowned! He could not help praying that at least the baby might be spared to comfort her. Then he remembered that his mother would certainly come very soon with help, and perhaps God might save them still; and as the deadly feeling of terror returned and became stronger and stronger, he tried to drive it away by saying all the prayers and verses of Psalms he could think of, finding in each new one a fresh comfort. More than all, the verse, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me, Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me," seemed to strengthen him; it almost appeared to him, in the fast gathering darkness, as if he heard the rustling of the wings of the angels sent by God to guard them.

At last the baby awoke, and began to cry at finding herself unable to move. George almost forgot his fears in his attempts to soothe her; but a very few minutes after she roused up, the window was dashed in, and so loud was the noise of the wind and the water that it was useless talking to the child any longer. The waves were very shortly washing the bottom of the cradle. George, full of fear that the baby would be drowned, tried climbing up on the rafters above her, in the hopes of seizing her. Scarcely had he done so when the cradle was washed off the shelf; the screams of the frightened child rose even above the storm, and George made a clutch at the shawl which tied her, when with a loud noise a large wave rushed up into the room, and the next instant the side of the house fell in, and baby, cradle and all were whirled out of the cottage and carried away by the foaming, angry river.

Almost fainting with horror, poor George clung to his beam, feeling every moment nearer and nearer to death; the rafters shook more and more with each wave, and the boy felt that if he was not drowned he should be killed with the falling in of the roof. A dull feeling came over him, that now his baby sister was gone it did not matter, for how could he meet his mother without her?

It was almost dark now, and George peered out anxiously, hoping even at the last for help, when with a crash the chimney fell down, the rafter on which he sat followed, and, almost insensible from fright, the poor boy was carried away, still clinging despairingly to his beam. A few moments more and he became quite insensible.

It will be well now to return to poor widow Grey, and see what has become of her. She finished her shopping very early, and was returning home, when she met a neighbor, who exclaimed, "Thank God, you are here, Mrs. Grey; I hope the children are with you?"

"No! I left them at home," answered the widow. "Why do you ask?"

The neighbor looked shocked. "Haven't you heard," he asked, "that the reservoir at Houlston has broken, and the Spathy has overflowed?"

"What can we do? what can we do?" cried the widow, wringing her hands and bursting into tears.

"Nay, don't take on so," said John Marsh, soothingly; and after a moment's thought he went on: "The best thing is to go to Solomon White's and borrow his boat; I'll go along with you;" and as they ran as fast as possible through the village, he said to two or three men whom they met, "Lend a helping hand, chaps; here's widow Grey's lad and lass left down in the cottage in the flood!" The men willingly joined, but they found the road to Solomon's cottage quite covered with water, and had to go round another way. This caused great delay; and the old boatman, who was a selfish, hard man, at first refused to let them have his boat. At length they persuaded him to lend it, but the current was so strong that they could scarcely manage the boat when they were in it, and only just reached the cottage in time to see the roof swept away.

The mother's sharp eye soon spied George whirled past them, and as she screamed and pointed, one of the men caught hold of the beam with his boat-hook, and with much danger and difficulty drew it towards him; and in a few minutes the boy was safe in the boat, though to all appearances quite dead. Of the baby they could see nothing, and, after vainly searching for some time, gave up, feeling that every moment George was out lessened the chance of his recovery. The river was running like a mill-stream, and the men had the greatest difficulty in fighting their way back; at length they reached the village, where a large crowd was gathered waiting for them, and as at last the boat landed, the brave rowers were greeted with shouts and cheers, changed soon to gentle murmurs of sympathy, when it was seen that only one child was there, and that he seemed to be dead.

The clergyman, who was foremost in the crowd, took George from the arms of his half fainting mother, and carried him at once to the rectory, where everything was possibly done to restore him to life. For some time it seemed useless; at last signs of life began to return, and after many disappointed hopes, George opened his eyes and asked in a faint voice, "Where's baby?" then, as the dreadful remembrance returned, his head fell back, and he became once more insensible. It was long before he was again restored; when he was, his first words were, "I tried to save her, mother, but she was washed away!" and a shudder passed through him, and then came a sudden burst of tears.

"He will be better now," said the doctor; "but he must not talk."

Mrs. Grey stooped over him, and said, "I know you did your best, my darling, my brave boy, but try to sleep now; wherever baby is, she is safe with God."

George seemed soothed, and putting his hand into his mother's soon fell asleep, and awoke much better; and sad as the widow was when she thought of the fate of her poor little girl, her heart felt full of thankfulness when she looked at her boy, restored to her as if by a miracle.

That was a sad Easter in little Wilton. The river still raged at its will, and many whose farms lay close to the Spathy felt that they were very likely to be ruined.

George got over the effects of his accident very slowly; the remembrance of those hours of misery and suspence seemed to cling to him; the vision of the floating cradle borne away on the angry waves came always before his eyes. If he fell asleep, it was to dream of the lost baby; and he awoke to weep for his little sister, big boy though he was, with a misery nothing seemed to still.

At last Mr. Oakley, the clergyman, strove to rouse him up by showing him how his present state was trying his poor mother, whose sorrow for her little girl was at least as great as his, though for her son's sake she struggled against it as much as possible. Mr. Oakley saw that George's nerves were completely over-wrought by his dreadful adventure, so he spoke very gently and tenderly, though he judged rightly that if the boy could feel that he was acting selfishly, it would rouse him more than anything else.

Nor was he wrong. With a deep feeling of penitence the lad noticed for the first time how worn and weary his mother looked, and begged her to lie down and get a little rest. Mrs Grey unwillingly agreed, and the clergyman, to quiet her promised to sit with the sick boy till her return.

Seeing how impossible it was to keep George from dwelling on the past, Mr. Oakley thought if he could put some new idea into his head with reference to little Mary, it might be better for him than brooding over her loss; so he asked him whether he did not think it would be a good plan if they thought of some text which could be engraved on the cross which they intended placing in the churchyard.

George, who brightened up a little at the idea of doing something for Mary's sake, said he thought the best text would be that for the Holy Innocents' Day, "Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted because they are not."

"I don't think that would do," said the clergyman. "For one thing, I hardly think that is a text to be used by Christian mourners. I don't think that we, before whom the thoughts of the glorious resurrection have just been brought, should refuse to be comforted. We ought to try to feel that what the Father does is best." Job's words would be better for your choice: 'The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' But now I think you had better try to go to sleep; you have talked enough for the present. God bless you, my boy, and make you patient in your present trouble;" and so saying, Mr. Oakley rose, and sat down by the window with a book.

At first the boy could not sleep; he was trying to say with Job in this trial, "Blessed be the name of the Lord," but it seemed too hard for him; yet from his heart went up the prayer, "Lord, teach me to bear it," and we know that such prayers are never long unanswered. He grew by degrees quieter and more drowsy, and at last, for the first time since the inundation, slept quietly. After some hours he woke up much refreshed, and was rewarded for his struggle to be unselfish by finding his mother much restored by her rest.

From that time he gradually improved, and by New Year's Eve was fairly well again.

He was sitting reading a book which had been lent him by Mr. Oakley, when the doctor came in to see him.

"That's right, man," he said; "you're quite well again, I think. Do you know where Mr. Oakley is?"

As he spoke the clergyman came into the housekeeper's room, where George was sitting; and the doctor said at once, "Do you think you could find time to drive over with me to Farmer Rood's? I hear his mother is dying."

"Is she, indeed; what's the matter with her?"

"She met with some accident in the inundation, but I don't know what; the farm boy who came over did not seem to know; he said 'There'd been a power of hurt done by the river, and old Mrs. Rood had met with an accident, and wanted to see you and the parson, so I thought I'd call for you."

"Why didn't they send sooner?" asked Mr. Oakley, as he went off to collect such things as he thought might be useful and needful.

"They have been shut off from us by the flood. Even now, though the river is much lower, we must go round by Cottingham."

Farmer Rood had a small farm on the opposite side of the river, and about half a mile lower down than Mrs. Grey's. He and his wife were a thrifty, honest couple, who tried hard to do their duty to God, and were seldom absent from their seats in the village church on Sundays. It was not often that either of them could get there in the week, as the farm was nearly two miles from it; but in the summer evenings Mrs. Rood might not unfrequently be seen there, and either before entering the church, or after leaving it, was sure to bend her steps toward a little cluster of graves, four in number, on whose headstones might be read:—

RACHEL ROOD, Aged Six, Died April the 9th.
JOHN ROOD, Aged Five, Died April the 9th
JAMES ROOD, Aged Three, Died April the 12th.
MARY ROOD, Aged Twelve Months, Died April the 13th.

And below:—
"The hand of the Lord is gone out against me." Ruth 1. 13.

And then:—
"The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

There had been a terrible fever in the neighborhood, and one after another all John Rood's children had been taken away from him and his wife, and their hearth had been left desolate. At first they had rebelled bitterly against God's will. "Why had his hand gone out against them?" they asked; "had they not striven to do their duty, and to bring their children up properly?—how had they deserved this affliction?" Well was it then for them that Mr. Oakley was at hand with his words of comfort and exhortation, to teach them that resignation is not a mere sullen submitting to what we are powerless to prevent, but a thankful receiving of God's chastisements, and a faithful acknowledgement that his ways are always best. Well also was it for them that old Mrs. Rood had already learned the lesson of Christian resignation, and was able, through God's blessing, to sow seeds which in his own good time he caused to bring forth a plentiful harvest.

Three years had now passed since the fever: and although there was often a wistful look in the faces of both, the bitter feeling had been followed by one of complete trust, and the gift of that peace which faith brings might be seen in the holy smile which often passed over the faces of the bereaved parents. Lonely as the silent house now felt, they had learned to realize that their little ones were not lost, but had only gone before, and were safely stored in the Father's heavenly garner.

As Mr. Oakley and the doctor drove slowly along—for the road to Cottingham, which the loss of the bridge obliged them to take, was very rough and bad—they both felt heavy at heart when they saw the injury caused by the flood; houses in ruins on the banks; fields under water—some of these had been sown with corn, which, most probably, was now spoilt; others had been lately ploughed, and that had been but labor in vain. And yet there was one great cause for rejoicing, and both felt it; excepting Mrs. Grey's baby, and the accident to old Mrs. Rood, they have heard of no lives being lost in the inundation; and with both those, they had the comfort of feeling that the baby was safe in her Father's arms, and that with old Mrs. Rood it was but gathering in an already ripened sheaf.

As each thought of the many who had lived in fancied security on the river's shore, unprepared for death, and forgetting the uncertainty of life, the many to whom a sudden death would have been a summons to everlasting misery, they could but feel grateful that such had not been granted space for repentance, and given such an awful warning; and a prayer went up from both of them that this warning might be turned to the profit of all. If such were the case, they felt that any loss of corn or houses and lands would signify but little in comparison with the immortal gain.

So musing, the way seemed but short; and almost before they expected it, they stood in front of the farm-house.

It was a quaint, brick building, whose red was softened by age; heavy beams of wood, painted black, adorned the outside; and there were many gables and curious juttings-out in the old house. The front was almost covered with roses and other creepers, and there was a strange old-fashioned garden with yew hedges and box-bushes cut into queer shapes; whilst in the summer the borders were bright with the dear, old-fashioned flowers, whose homely beauty and sweet, long-lasting scent are so far above those of any modern plant. Beyond this was a field leading down to the river; but in the inundation the Spathy had evidently mounted up to the border of the garden, and washed even into the farther end of that.

At the sound of the wheels Mrs. Rood ran to the door to welcome the doctor, and was doubly rejoiced when she saw Mr. Oakley with him. Both asked eagerly whether old Mrs. Rood was still alive.

"What, mother-in-law!" said the good woman, looking surprised; "why, she's got nothing much the matter with her; she hurt her wrist the night of the flood, when she was lifting something,—but that's all; only it doesn't seem to get better, so John thought she'd better send for the doctor; and as the farm lad was going in for some stuff for one of our cows who is dying, I asked him to tell the doctor I'd take it kindly if he'd step in sometime."

"Didn't you send for me, then?" asked Mr. Oakley. "The message brought was that your mother was dying, and wanted to see the doctor and me!"

Mrs. Rood burst into a hearty fit of laughter. "Well, if ever I knew such a stupid boy as that Tom; how he's muddled it all up, to be sure! I did say I'd be glad to see you, sir, if you could come this way; but it was only because I wanted to ask your advice about something which has troubled me a little. If the doctor will step this way and see mother, I'll come back and tell you all about it."

When she returned Mr. Oakley greeted her with: "Why, Mrs. Rood, I never knew you had a baby. I am so glad for you and your husband. How old is it?"

"Bless its little heart," said Mrs. Rood, as she lifted the infant from the cradle and kissed it heartily—"it's none of ours, but it's a living marvel, sir, that it's here to speak for itself; not that it can do that yet, but we'll hope it may some day. But do ye sit down, and I'll tell you all about it; just let me get you a cup of tea."

Having bustled about for her kettle and cups, Mrs. Rood sat down and said: "Well, you see, sir, me and John was with mother on the bank last Friday, watching the river; that was a sight, to be sure—the water ramping and roaring, the rain falling, and such heaps of queer things being carried past—gates and rails, blocks of wood, trunks of trees, even beds and chairs; we forgot all about the rain, and stayed there a long time. John had a boat-hook in his hand, and tried to pull what he could to shore, and mother and I helped him. At last we saw a queer-shaped sort of box coming near, and John made a poke at it with the hook; he'd all but missed it, but mother she'd got a stick in her hand, and betwixt them they fished it to shore. Would you believe it, sir? inside lay this baby, safely tied in, insensible and nearly dead, as indeed was to have been expected, for she was all soused with the rain, and knocked about shameful. We brought her up here, and betwixt us, mother and I, fetched her round after a bit, and we've kept her ever since. Ah, sir! it looks like old times to see the cradle full once more; but my heart aches when I think how sad the poor mother must be. I'd be loth to part with her, for John's taken mightily to the little maid, and so for that matter have I; but we'd not be so selfish as to keep her from her own mother, so I thought I'd ask if you knew of any one who has lost a baby?"

"Indeed I do, Mrs. Rood," said the clergyman joyfully, and he proceeded to tell all that had happened to the Greys since the day of the inundation.

"Do come and hear what's happened, mother," cried the farmer's wife to her mother-in-law, who came to the door at this moment. "The baby is Mrs. Grey's, and her house has been washed away; it's a living wonder that any of them were saved." And she repeated the story, to the astonishment of all.

After some discussion it was decided that Mr. Oakley and the doctor were to return and prepare the widow and her son for the joyful news, and that the Roods were to bring little Mary over in the course of an hour. The road seemed far longer than when going to the farm as the messengers of good tidings returned, and the time was very short in which to break the news to the mourners.

It was strange how unable they seemed to realize the truth—how much more ready to fear more trouble than to expect happiness.

When at last they did understand it, who can express the joy and thankfulness which filled their hearts, or the eagerness with which they watched the farmer's cart?

At length it drew up before the door, and the farmer, with his mother and the wife carrying the precious baby, got out. In the joy at restoring the infant to its mother, the Roods almost forgot their own loss, and they were too much excited during the hour they remained at the rectory to feel it.

But, oh, how desolate the great kitchen at the farm felt on their return!—no child in the cradle, no pretty baby prattle; and tottering, uncertain footstdps.

For a long time they sat in silence; the warm fire-light danced on the white-washed walls, the cat purred softly on the hearth, old Mrs. Rood's knitting needles clicked cheerily; but a grave look of sorrow was upon the faces of all the party. At last the farmer said; "Do you know, wife, what Widow Grey's going to do, now her house is washed away?"

"No! I've not heard; I should think she hardly knew herself."

"Because I was thinking, how do you suppose it would do to have her here? Mother can't do as much as she used to, and you're not overstrong."

"Oh, John! are you in earnest?" said his wife. "I wonder whether she'd come; only to think of having the baby here again!"

"But John," said his mother, "what's to be done about the lad? you see he's in the way." And she laid down her knitting, pushed her spectacles back, and waited for an answer.

"Well, I don't quite see my way there," answered the farmer; "but I dare say something might be done; at least, I'll go over and see Mr. Oakley about it to-morrow."

Silence returned, but no longer the sad silence of a few minutes before, for both the mother and grandmother were picturing to themselves the delight of having the baby back again.

So, next day, John Rood plodded over to the rectory and discussed his plan with the rector, who thought it most delightful; and to the objection, "what could be done with George?" said, "He could be apprenticed as a pupil-teacher at the school, and arrangements should be made for his boarding with the master."

So it was happily managed, and a month later Mrs. Grey and her baby took up their abode at the farm, and George settled down comfortably at the school.

Time passed on, and the joy at the farm still increased. I fear the little girl would have grown sadly spoilt, had not a new person appeared in the old farm-house.

God had looked upon Mrs. Rood, and her patience in sorrow was rewarded. To her great delight and pleasure she had a fine little girl, who, as may readily be supposed, became the pet and darling of the house. But little Mary was no less prized than before, and rejoiced in as her own baby's birth as that of a sister; and a year later came a boy, and then twins, so that the old kitchen once more rang with merry children's voices.

When George had been for some years as pupil-teacher, Mr. Oakley heard such a good account of him that he sent him to a training-school, where he made rapid progress. Just as he was on the point of leaving, the old master died, and Mr. Oakley proposed to him to take the vacant post; it need scarcely be said he gladly accepted the offer.

At first he lived by himself in the schoolhouse; but his mother, feeling that the loneliness was bad for him, and that Mrs. Rood no longer required her, persuaded the farmer to let her go to live with her son; and, with many regrets, they allowed her and Mary to leave them.

With them they carried the rough wooden cradle in which Mary had been washed away.—It was hung over their chimney-piece as their most valuable ornament. And when, later in life, George married Farmer Rood's daughter, Ruth, many were the evenings on which, in answer to the petition from their children that Granny would tell them a story, she would repeat them the tale of how Aunt Mary was wonderfully saved in a flood.—[*People's Mag.*

Our Friends.

Our best friends are not those most willing to loan us money, to give us presents, or to latter us with praises of our virtues and abilities. All these may proceed from interested motives, and such motives are rarely or ever the foundation of a wholesome and lasting friendship. In these selfish days, when romance, affection and reverence have so little, and thirst for wealth so much to do with men's actions, and when persons are on the lookout for themselves and careless of the claims of others, there is little old-fashioned steadfast friendship to be met with. The name survives but the substance has vanished. Men have their political friends, their business friends whom they can apply to for an endorsement of a note in bank. But the relation invokes no tender and genial intimacy, and may be broken by any accident of politics or business. The truth is, that a good friend, next to a good wife, is the rarest treasure a man can have on earth. His friendship is not the result of bargain and sale, nor the result of interchanging of favors. It springs from pure and disinterested affection; it is more ready to grant favors and to make sacrifices than to accept them. It rejoices without ostentation and without hypocrisy in our good fortune; it never envies our successes when pretending to congratulate us on them; it is afflicted by our adversities; it shares our griefs and sympathizes with us in our hopes and bereavements. It deplores and reproves our faults, and rarely speaks to us of our virtues; it is beside our bed in sickness, and is not absent in times of danger and distress. The society of those who have such friendship as this for each other is a comfort and a delight; the communion between them is a sweet flow of confidence unvexed by unworthy schemes of self-interest. One true, good friend like this is all a man needs, and more than most men possess.

Is Your Hair Dry?

At a delegate election held in Woodbury, N. J., prior to the last election, the colored citizens, having a majority in one of the divisions, elected one of their own race as a representative to the Republican convention. He was a preacher familiarly known as "Daddy Grimes." This action was unexpected, and not very palatable to his white confreres. After the nominations had been made, one of the delegates rather jeeringly called on Daddy Grimes for a speech. The old man rose, seriously and with perfect decorum, and said: "Thar was a bad man I knowed who would swar, an' cheat an' lie, an' steal, an' get drunk; an' he warn't good far nuthin' no how. But the grace of the Lord come to him, an' changed his heart; an' he was converted from his evil ways, an' got baptized in the river. Jest as he come out of the water, he begin to sing and shout, 'Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Glory to God! All my sins is washed away! An' he kept on shoutin' till one of de sisters standin' by laid her hand on his head, an' she said: 'Why, brother, *your har aint dry yet!*' Now, gen'lemen, I feel jest as that poor redeemed sinner felt; and, bless de Lord, I could now rejoice an' I could speak. But I know, sar, *my* har's not dry yet."

Then the old man sat down. He had made a speech, and preached a sermon of wide application.

Keeping to one Thing.

We earnestly entreat every young man, after he has chosen his vocation, to stick to it. Don't leave it because hard blows are to be struck, or disagreeable work performed. Those who have worked their way up to wealth and usefulness, do not belong to the shiftless and unstable class, but may be reckoned among such as took off their coats, rolled up their sleeves, conquered their prejudices against labor, and manfully bore the heat and burden of the day. Whether upon the old farm, where our fathers toiled diligently, striving to bring the soil to productiveness; in the machine shop or factory, or the thousand other business places that invite honest toil and skill, let the motto ever be: Perseverance and industry. Stick to one thing boys, and you will have success.

Patching and Darning.

An agricultural journal, actuated by a laudable desire to extend the sphere of useless young women, and at the same time increase its own circulation, offers a list of prizes for good specimens of "patching" and "darning" executed by any girl, not a tailoress, and not over sixteen years of age. The idea is a good one. Comparatively few young ladies now-a-days know how to place a patch neatly upon a torn or worn garment, or how to "darn" a stocking so that its term of service may be indefinitely prolonged. Few housewives, even, can sew on a patch so that the garment will appear as good as new, and the number who can "darn" well is nearly as limited. As the paper to which we refer states, there are in the aggregate millions of garments annually cast aside for "paper rags," which might be made to do good service if the wives, sisters or daughters of the wearers knew how to put on a patch so neatly as to conceal the fact of a patch at all to the casual observer. And it is equally true that the wives of our country have far greater need of knowing how to patch well than how to make good "patch-work"—a fact our Agricultural Societies would do well to remember in the future arrangement of their premium lists.

An Effectual Rebuke.

One his way home from his last tour to Ireland, Rev. Rowland Hill was very much anoyed at the reprobate conduct of the captain and mate, who were greatly addicted to the ungentlemanly habit of swearing. First the captain would swear at the mate, and then they would both swear at the wind.

"Stop, stop," shouted Hill, "let us have fair play, gentlemen; it's my turn now."

"At what is your turn?" asked the captain.

"At swearing," replied Hill.

After waiting until his patience was exhausted, the captain urged Mr. Hill to be quick and take his turn, for he wanted to begin again.

"No, no," said Hill, "I can't be hurried; I have a right to take my own time and swear at my own convenience."

"Perhaps you don't intend to take your turn," responded the other.

"Pardon me," said Hill, "but I do as soon as I can find the *good* of doing so."

The rebuke had the desired effect; there was not another oath on the voyage.

Science and Art.

Old Worn-out Boots as Food.

Throwing an old shoe after a newly married couple will have a new aplication hereafter. It will be not only an emblem of good luck but a substantial present. It should be publicly known that it is sheer waste to pitch old boots and shoes into the street as useless and of no value. They should be reserved for nobler uses and made to contribute to the delectation of the palate. That this can be done was illustrated by a chemist a few evenings since, at a meeting of the New York Liberal Club. He exhibited, for the information and examination of the members, a pudding, or rather a jelly, made out of an old boot. The mate of the boot of which the jelly was made stood alongside of the dish, and proved to be a veritable odd fellow, who bore the marks and scars of a long and useful life. Subsequently, the learned gentleman explained the process of the manufacture, which we reproduce as a matter of interest to housekeepers generally. "Skins," said the professor, "are nothing but a gelatine; but after they are exposed to the action of tannin they become leather, and in that condition insoluble. If, however, the leather of a boot is put into a close vessel with lime and water, where it can be subjected to the pressure from the steam of about two atmospheres, the tannin unites with the lime, and the leather is resolved back into its original gelatine, and can then be cast into a mould and served up at the table." The jelly was molasses-colored and tremulous, and looked like incipient glue. Several tasted it, and spittoons were at once demanded. We may soon expect to see this new dish on the bill of fare of our restaurants and hotels as "boot-jelly." Then there will probably be regular seasons for this delicacy—seasons when it is the most fragrant—as after a hot summer, for instance, or from an importation of old Southern plantation shoes, or from butchers, stable men, &c. If the price of old boots should be so much advanced by this discovery as to go far toward paying for a new pair, how the boot and shoe trade would look up!—*Shoe and Leather Reporter.*

A Dangerous Water-pipe.

We have previously called attention to the dangerous character of the galvanized-iron pipe when employed for conducting water to be used for culinary purposes. Instances of severe poisoning from the use of this pipe are continually coming to our notice, and hence we are led once more to caution our readers against it. It is almost a crime for dealers and manufacturers to recommend this zinc-covered iron pipe for water conduit, as they thereby jeopardize the health and perhaps the lives of purchasers. When this pipe comes from the hands of the manufacturers, it has a fresh, clean appearance; and to those who do not understand the nature of the covering the idea is conveyed that it will not oxydize or rust, like ordinary iron pipes. But this is an error; it will rust even more rapidly than clean iron in most localities. The superficial covering of zinc is rapidly decomposed under the influence of ordinary pond and spring waters; and the oxyd, carbonate and chloride of zinc are formed, which salts are of a deleterious or poisonous character. This covering of zinc on the interior is attacked immediately when water is allowed to flow through, and in some instances we have known it to be entirely removed in forty-eight hours. The insoluble carbonate of zinc is seen to float upon the water in the teakettle and other water-vessels used in families; and this has often created alarm, where no suspicions previously existed. We hope the newspaper press throughout the country will caution their readers against the use of this pipe for water-supply.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

Fictitious Salad-Oils.

Most of the salad-oils now brought into market are made of cotton-seed oil, refined and bleached. Among all the substitutes for the genuine olive-oil, none is better than cotton-seed, since we are able to get it fresh: while the genuine olive-oil often shows, from its age a beginning, at least, of rancidity. This cotton-seed oil resembles linseed oil in its drying properties, and makes, consequently, a better oil for painters than for lubricating machinery. Boiled with litharge, it yields an excellent drying oil. Extensive manufactories are now being erected and the demand is already enormous. The crude oil is used to make soap, grease, wool, etc.

A Great Canal Projected.

An important work of internal improvement is on foot to construct a ship canal of sufficient capacity to allow the passage of the largest vessels from one lake of our great American chain of lakes to the other, and to the Atlantic ocean. The canal will be known as the Ontario and Erie Ship Canal, and its estimated cost will bo in the neighborhood of $5.000.000. Two years and a half will be required to complete it. Citizens of Canada have taken the initiative in the work of prosecuting the enterprise to a successful completion, but our lake cities are giving their earnest attention to the project, and will have to raise most of the means.

Remedy for Nervous Headache.

A well-known Kentucky minister, subject to severe spells of nervous headache, was in our office the other day, says an exchange, during one of those attacks. Major Brown, of Mexico, was present and proposed to relieve him in five minutes, which he did most effectually. The following is the prescription: Take a dessert spoonful of common soda, such as is used in making bread, and dissolve it thoroughly in a quart of cold water. With this thoroughly shampoo the head for about five minutes, scratching the skin of the head and back of the neck well with the finger nails. Then rinse the head with clean cold water. Major Brown says he has used this remedy in perhaps a thousand cases since 1853, and never once failed to give relief in five or ten minutes. This remedy is for nervous headache, and is not for those affections of the head arising from deranged stomachs.

Improvement in Glue.

Crude animal substances, such as the flesh, fat, skin, tendons, bones, etc., either with or without a previous treatment with lime, are treated with benzole, or some other similar hydrocarbon, in a vessel provided with a condensing apparatus for saving any vaporized benzole, or in a closed vessel at an elevated temperature. After a few hours, digestion, the hydrocarbon solution of the fats and oil is drawn off, and may be treated by any of the well-known methods for recovering the volatile hydrocarbon, which may be again used in subsequent operations. The oils and fats are saved and utilized. The animal matters, or purified glue-stock, is now ready for conversion into gelatine by heating with water in the ordinary way.

Tempering Drills.

A correspondent of the *English Mechanic* gives the following directions for tempering drills—an operation which, though simple enough in its way, is not always as well performed as it should be: "If the drill is a small one, hold it in a jet of gas till a cherry red heat appears; then dip the point, or as far up as you wish it tempered, into water or oil immediately. Then try if a smooth file will bite or file it; if it does, it must be done over again, but if it does not bite, but slips over the face without making any impression on it, it will do. Next clean the paint or side of the face carefully on an oil-stone, then twist a piece of wire round the end of the drill in pliers in a candle or gas-light till you see it (on the clean piece of the face) gradually turn from a light to a dark color.

The Largest City.

It is generally thought that London is the largest city in the world, but the belief is erroneous. Jeddo, the capital of Japan, is, without exception, the largest and most populous city in the world. It contains the vast number of one million dwellings, and five million human souls. Many of the streets are nineteen Japaneseries in length—twenty-two English miles. The commerce of Jeddo far exceeds that of any other city, and the sea along the coast is constantly white with sails from the southern portion of the Empire, where they are laden with rice, tea, sea-coal, tobacco, silk, cotton, and tropical fruits, all of which can find ready market in the North.

Fresh Water from the Ocean.

Wise men are puzzling themselves to account for the fresh water which comes up through an iron tube, sunk fifteen feet through the constantly shifting sands of Cape-Cod, from fifteen to twenty feet from high water, and not more than three feet above it. The water in this tube rises and falls with the tide, yet more than one hundred barels of water have been pumped from it at one time, without finding the slightest trace of saline matter. It is of such fine quality that vessels supply themselves for a sea voyage from this well. It is filtered by the sand.

☞ Several of the eyeless fish of the Mammoth Cave, of Kentucky, have been presented to the Dublin Zoological Gardens. They were caught on the 18th of August, in Echo river, four miles and a half from the sole entrance to the cave. During their month's residence in the light some trace of eyes has been developed.

☞ The French settlement at Adelescat, Dakota Territory, has a curious origin. A party of French emigrants were journeying up the Missouri river, when a pet cat escaped from its mistress, Adele. A stop was made to catch the runaway, when the emigrants, struck by the advantages of the location, halted and formed the new settlement.

Our Young Folks Column.

IN SCHOOL DAYS.

J. G. WHITTIER.

Still sits the school-house by the road,
A ragged beggar sunning;
Around it still the sumachs grow,
And blackberry vines are running.

Within, the master's desk is seen,
Deep scarred with raps official;
The warping floor, the battered seats,
The jack-knife's carved initial;—

The charcoal frescoes on its walls,
Its door's worn sill, betraying
The feet that, creeping slow to school,
Went storming out to playing.

Long years ago a winter's sun
Shone over it at setting;
Lit up its western window panes,
And low eaves' icy fretting.

It touched the a tangled golden curls,
And brown eyes full of grieving,
Of one who still her steps delayed
When all the school are leaving.

For near her stood the little boy
Her childish favor singled,
His cap pulled low upon his face
Where pride and shame were mingled.

Pushing with restless feet the snow
To right and left he lingered;
As restlessly her tiny hands
The blue-checked apron fingered.

He saw her l